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## Fatah: Replace Shaath with Abbas

**News agencies**  
TUNIS - The PLO's main faction, Fatah, decided Friday to replace chief negotiator Nabil Shaath with Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). It also voted to continue peace talks with Israel, signaling a vote of confidence for Yasser Arafat, but apparently attached the change in leadership as a condition.

The PLO's executive committee, which opened its own session after the two-day Fatah meeting, must approve both decisions.

In Gaza yesterday, Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani denied the reports on Shaath's dismissal, emphasizing that since no official decision had yet been made by the PLO executive, the Palestinian Authority could not comment on the media reports regarding Abbas.

Kanafani noted that if Shaath is replaced, it will only be to allow him more time, to devote to his duties as PA economics and planning minister and not to harm his status or image.

Senior PLO sources in Gaza said if Shaath is replaced it will show that Arafat wants to please the PLO executive, which has lately shown opposition to Arafat and the Oslo accord.

Abbas was an architect of the Oslo accord, which led to the September 1993 peace accord between Palestinians and Israel. But he is among those who have called for halting the talks, believing the Palestinians have conceded too much.

In a book published in December, *The Road to Oslo*, Abbas wrote that the PLO helped the Labor Party win the elections June 1992 after holding secret negotiations with the party before the elections. He later denied any such meetings.

He also authored a book in 1983, *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and the Zionist Movement*, which reportedly claimed that the Zionist movement was a Nazi partner in the slaughter of Jews, and that the figure of six million Jews killed was deliberately inflated by Zionists.

Shaath has led negotiations with Israel since July 1994, and his replacement was seen as a possible compromise forced on Arafat by hard-liners.

Shaath, cooperation minister in the Palestinian Authority, said Fatah agreed to continue the peace process with a "detailed plan" to proceed by. "We elaborated a detailed plan on the holding of negotiations with a view to shaking off the paralysis, and to arrive at an [Israeli] withdrawal and at elections," Shaath said.

"The tendency is that we will continue negotiations, but that they will be directed by a committee to be chaired by Mahmoud Abbas," a senior Palestinian official told Reuters.

Agreement was reached despite some heated opposition within Fatah. Mohammed Jihad, a top aide to Arafat, argued vigorously against resumption of discussions because of what he called "repression" by Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip.

Arafat, who last year based himself in the Gaza Strip self-rule area, ran into stiff opposition at this week's meeting of his mainstream Fatah movement in Tunis, when leading members demanded a halt to talks with Israel, the sources said.

Argument at an overnight session became so heated that Arafat's security guards, alarmed to hear their chief shouting, burst into the conference room, the sources said.

They left when he calmed down.

The two-day meeting of the 18-strong executive started Friday night with 11 members attending.

The others, representatives of radical groups or independents, have boycotted the committee's meetings since the movement signed the peace agreement with Israel.



Emergency workers rush Eran Biton from an air force helicopter to an ambulance yesterday in an unsuccessful attempt to save his life at Tel Aviv's Jerusalem Beach. (Dan Oussendyev/Israel Sun)

## Boy saved, another drowns off TA

AN 11-year-old Mevasseret Zion boy, Eran Biton, drowned off Tel Aviv's Jerusalem Beach on Friday, after a lifeguard managed to pull another drowning boy from the water but was prevented by strong waves from reaching him.

At about 2 p.m. lifeguard Mushon Berkovitz closed the Frishman lifeguard station and walked to his car further down the beach. As he passed the Jerusalem Beach breakwaters he saw two boys waist-deep in an unsupervised section of water, where there were high waves and a strong undertow.

Fearing for the boys, Berkovitz ran into the surf and struggled through the heavy waves towards them. He managed to pull one boy out of the water and bring him to safety. But when he tried to return to Biton, he could not make headway through the strong surf.

Biton, meanwhile, was being dragged by the undertow further away from shore. Realizing he could not reach him, Berkovitz raced back to the beach to alert police and rescue teams. A Coast Guard ship responded to the alert, but could not approach close enough, because of the breakwaters at Jerusalem Beach. A naval patrol boat then arrived on the scene, but faced the same problem.

Forty-five minutes after the first alert was sounded, an air force helicopter arrived. At that point, some of the hundreds of spectators who had gathered said they saw the boy floating in the water.

As the helicopter hovered five meters above, rescue teams pulled Biton unconscious from the water. Medics administered CPR and artificial respiration on the boy as the helicopter landed on the beach, and again after he was transferred to an ambulance.

He was brought to Dana Children's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead after further resuscitation efforts failed. (Idm)

## Iraq holds two US citizens from Kuwait

BAGHDAD (AP) - Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan indicated yesterday that Iraq is holding two Americans who crossed the border from Kuwait, but said: "Nothing much will happen to them."

In an interview in Baghdad with Associated Press TV, Ramadan declared: "Borders must be respected. There are rules and laws and this will be taken into consideration when dealing with anyone who does not respect this country."

Ramadan, who is considered the No. 2 official in Saddam Hussein's regime, did not say categorically whether the two Americans would be put on trial or say where they are being held.

But he hinted at possible linkage to Baghdad's drive to get the United Nations Security Council to lift crippling trade sanctions imposed after Saddam invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"I think those two, as far as those two are concerned, you should not pay much attention to them," he said in the first official Iraqi comment on the Americans' disappearance March 13.

"But you must pay attention to the 20 million starved by the American administration," he said.

UN officials say the Americans were arrested Monday night after they crossed into Iraq from Kuwait to visit friends in a Danish engineering unit attached to the UN observer mission, which has been deployed along the border since the 1991 Gulf War.

US and other officials declined to name the Americans, and there was some confusion over their identities.

The *Florida Times-Union* newspaper reported that one is David Daliberi, 41, of Jacksonville, Florida, according to his wife, Kathy.

"It's just a terrible, terrible thing and I'm just about at my wit's end, not knowing if he's all right and how they're treating him," she was quoted as saying.

In Kuwait, the *Arab Times* newspaper quoted unofficial sources as identifying the missing men as Bill Barloon and Steve Salazar who work for US companies in Kuwait.

The *Arab Times* said the men's families were in Kuwait, but were refusing to talk to reporters. The US Embassy in Kuwait declined all comment on that report.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said the two were civilian employees under contract to the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission on the border.

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the missing men were employees of a private American company.

He stressed that the US government cannot release their identities or information on their activities because of US privacy laws.

McCurry said President Bill Clinton was briefed on the situation by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

## Al Gore visits region to push economic progress

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies  
US Vice President Al Gore will meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat this week as part of the third, cabinet-level US Middle East tour this month, senior administration officials announced over the weekend.

Gore left yesterday for the trip, which is aimed at spurring economic development to cement peace. It will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Jericho, where he will meet Arafat, the officials said.

On his first stop, Egypt, Gore will join President Hosni Mubarak to launch a new US-Egyptian joint committee on economic growth, patterned after a similar panel Gore co-chairs with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

He will be in Egypt today through Tuesday, when he continues to Jordan. After visiting Oman and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, he winds up in Israel on Thursday and leaves for home on Friday.

Aides described Gore's mission as complementing Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour completed this week, as well as a trip to the region by Defense Secretary William Perry, which also began Friday. Perry will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

"These missions do interlock," one official said. "We're attending to a peace process, a security relationship, and the future economic development of the region."

Christopher returned from the Middle East on Wednesday after persuading Syrian President Hafez Assad to agree to reopen talks between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington. No date has been announced yet for resumption of talks.

"It sends a message to both Iraq and Iran, which is that we take our defense role in the Gulf very seriously," a senior US defense official told reporters.

"What we want to do is reassure the states that if there is any interference with sea lines of communication, which is so vital in the Gulf, or any threats against the undisputed territorial integrity of the states in the Gulf, that we will be there to help."

Business will also be at the forefront of Gore's first stop in the region today in Cairo. He will participate in a meeting of the US-Egypt Joint Committee on Economic Growth and is to witness the signing of a bilateral science and technology agreement, senior administration officials said.

## Kibbutz cemetery sets aside non-Jewish section

HERB KEINON  
THE Religious Affairs Ministry and Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim have reached an agreement whereby a section in the kibbutz cemetery will be set aside for non-Jews.

The agreement comes just after Claudia Pesinkov, a 92-year-old non-Jewish immigrant from Russia, was finally buried Thursday at Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk. It took six days to find a cemetery that would bury her.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, currently attending a conference in Morocco, issued a statement saying that Kiryat Anavim, near Jerusalem, will serve as an interim solution for non-Jewish immigrants until a permanent secular cemetery is opened.

An interministerial committee recently decided to open such a cemetery in the South.

The agreement between the ministry and the kibbutz, whereby the ministry will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance in the non-Jewish section of the cemetery, is to be signed this morning.

A ministry official said the section will have room for 400 plots, and that the ministry has agreed not to ask for more land in the cemetery once this section is filled up.

Shetreet said last week that some 120,000 non-Jews have arrived in the wave of aliyah that began in 1989. Some 625,000 immigrants arrived during that period.

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said Friday that "alternative" cemeteries would have to be built due to the large number of non-Jewish immigrants who have arrived in the past few years.

"Establishing such cemeteries will also help the burial societies work according to Halacha," Bakshi-Doron said.

## Israel has stand at Egyptian trade fair for first time since '86

CAIRO (AP) - Israel opened a pavilion at Egypt's annual trade fair for the first time since an Israeli was gunned down at the fair in 1986.

An X-ray machine and metal detector were set up outside the blue-and-white building, Egyptian and Israeli undercover security men milled about inside, and unarmed security forces surrounded the site.

The two-week trade fair, which opened yesterday, brings together exhibits from about 40 countries and includes 24 Israeli companies.

"Achieving peaceful relations comes through economic cooperation," Israeli Ambassador David Sultan said yesterday as he walked around the pavilion.

American, European, Egyptian, and other Arab businessmen toured the displays, which included cosmetics, appliances, agricultural products, and even Moslem prayer beads.

Israeli businessman Eilan Mali, whose cosmetics company has a display, touted the prospects for profit in the Egyptian market.

"We came to work and make a good job together," Mali said.

In 1986, a leftist group called Egypt's Revolution fired on a car carrying Israelis working in Israel's pavilion. One embassy employee was killed and three were wounded.

Israel canceled plans to participate last year after Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Moslem worshippers in Hebron, said Israeli Embassy spokesman Ya'acov Setty.

## Palestinian elections will result in state - Sarid

'Such a development would be positive'

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies  
A PALESTINIAN state will emerge as a result of elections, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said yesterday, calling this likelihood "a positive development."

"After a chairman is elected for the Palestinian Authority, and after a Palestinian council is elected, and after the council is given its executive and legislative authorities, if you see the whole picture I think it shows a Palestinian state is emerging, at least a state in the making," he told Army Radio.

"Officially it will not be called a state, but in reality it will be a state for every practical purpose, lacking only responsibility for external security and the security of Israelis in Israeli-held territory," Sarid said.

"The establishment of a Palestinian state is a positive development, that will have a positive influence on Israeli-Palestinian relations and will stabilize them."

Sarid said the borders of the Palestinian state would most likely coincide with an as-yet undetermined line that the government plans to draw between the territories and Israel as part of the separation plan.

Sarid's remarks generated immediate sharp reactions from the Likud, which said Sarid was merely stating clearly what Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have been distorting all along.

"A terrorist state will be formed with Jerusalem as its capital," said Likud MK Uzi Landau. "This is a clear formula for national suicide."

Labor Knesset faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen also criticized Sarid's remarks, calling them "out of place."

"The position of the Labor Party was and remains that the aim is for an autonomy arrangement with the Palestinians, and afterwards to open negotiations on a permanent settlement," Cohen said. "The position of the Labor Party is that, even under the permanent settlement, there is no place for an independent Palestinian state."

Sarid said his comments reflected only the Meretz position and were intended to eliminate the mistaken impression that the agreements between Israel and the Palestinians would not be implemented, at least not within a reasonable period.

Although Sarid did not say it, his comments may also have been designed to help strengthen PLO chief Yasser Arafat, who is presently under fire in Tunis from hard-liners who want to halt the talks with Israel.

The two sides agreed last week to achieve redeployment of the IDF in Judea and Samaria by July 1 and are continuing to discuss issues relating to the elections in the territories.

Yesterday, Palestinian Police officials said 10 members of the Islamic Jihad had been arrested - Palestinian sources said 15 - for distributing an anti-PA leaflet.

The official said the arrests were part of an ongoing attempt by the Palestinian Authority to assert control in Gaza.

The PA, however, lifted a 40-day ban on an Islamic Jihad newspaper, *Al-Istiklal* ("Independence").

"The Palestinian Authority told me that we can reopen our office and resume the paper. We circulated 7,000 copies today," editor Adnan Abu Hasna told Reuters.

## Michael Jordan returns!

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Michael Jordan rejoined the Chicago Bulls yesterday, ending a 17-month retirement from basketball and returning perhaps the sport's most gifted player to the court. Jordan will suit up for today's game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis.

Nearly two weeks of rumors and speculation, during which Jordan abandoned the baseball career he had left the Bulls to pursue, ended in a two-sentence statement from the Bulls.

Full story, Page 9

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# Tibi downplays criticism over remarks about Druse

AHMED Tibi, special adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, yesterday called criticism from Druse leaders and others of his remarks regarding Druse youth serving in the IDF "a tempest in a teacup."

On Friday, Tibi told a group of high school pupils in the Druse village of Yarka that he believes Druse should not be drafted.

"My basic point is that the Druse are Arabs, and they are part of the Arab population of

Israel," he told the pupils. "Most Druse characterize themselves as part of the Arab nation."

"Since the Israel government has exempted the rest of the Arab population from forced conscription, I think that for the same reasons the Druse should also be exempt. I think the Druse find it emotionally difficult to fight against their brothers in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza."

Tibi insisted he was simply expressing his personal opinion, in

response to questions from a pupil. "He said that a number of young men in Yarka did not want to serve in the IDF," Tibi said.

He added that the Druse, as members of Israeli society, should pursue the issue through the democratic process.

Several MKs, including Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen and several right-wing MKs, condemned Tibi's remarks, with some on the Right demanding he be arrested for incitement.

Heads of the Druse and Circassian local councils convened in special session Friday to discuss Tibi's remarks, and ended up vehemently condemning them.

Assad Araideh, head of the Kafr Mar Local Council, called Tibi's remarks a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Druse community, which has decided to cast its lot with the State of Israel.

"The Druse and Circassian local council heads, who were

elected democratically, are authorized to speak on behalf of the Druse sect and we insist on a continuation of the draft."

"The Druse motivation to serve in the IDF is among the highest of all conscripts, and the high percentage that serve in combat units testifies to this."

MK Assad Assad lashed out at Tibi, calling him a "hypocrite."

"It would be better for [Tibi] to preach to the Arab world, part of which is in the midst of civil war

in which Arabs are killed by their brothers," Assad said in a statement.

Deputy Knesset Speaker Salah Tarif (Labor) confirmed that there are some Druse who do not want to serve in the IDF, but that they are a small minority.

He added, however, that he did not understand the vehement reaction to Tibi's remarks. "Sadly, there are some people who don't know how to accept a different opinion," he said. (Itn)

## Kahalani demands halt to talks

Jerusalem Post Staff

LABOR MK Avigdor Kahalani, who returned Friday from a US trip on behalf of The Third Way movement, said yesterday that negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians should be stopped.

Speaking on Army Radio, Kahalani said, "What is important now in the negotiations with the Palestinians is to stop and wait to see how [PLO Chairman] Yasser Arafat can control his people."

"As of now I don't see any leadership on his part, and the replacement of Dr. Nabil Shaath [as chief negotiator] with Abu Mazen [Mahmoud Abbas] will not improve the situation."

Kahalani said that during his trip, he found a great deal of sympathy among Americans for The Third Way's position against withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"The American's believe there is no need to rush the talks with Damascus and that we should wait a few years and watch what develops there," he said. "Some members of Congress even said to me that we are mentally ill if we are prepared to give up the Golan."

Kahalani said he had raised over \$100,000 for the movement, some of which would be given to Golan Heights residents for their anti-withdrawal lobbying.

He also attacked Likud chairman MK Binyamin Netanyahu, claiming that when he had approached potential donors, the donors said they had been called by Netanyahu, who had asked them not to give money to Kahalani.

"I have become dangerous to the Right, and not just to the Labor Party," Kahalani said.

Netanyahu last night denied he had called anyone to stop contributions to Kahalani. "I appreciate all efforts to prevent withdrawal from the Golan," he said.

## Golan residents plan massive PR campaign

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Heights Residents Committee is planning what organizers described as "the most extravagant and biggest information campaign the country has ever seen."

They intend to take a mobile exhibition to every major city and town, starting in Jerusalem at Passah, over a period of six months.

"The aim is to bring the Golan to the public, especially those who have not visited the region recently, and strengthen support for our campaign to keep the area under Israeli rule," said Kitzrin Local Council Chairman Sammy Bar-Lev.

"We will have a portable building, which is easy to assemble and dismantle, where the exhibition will be staged. We also intend to screen films of the Golan, the people, the scenery, and the way of life in the same complex," said Bar-Lev.

"There will be a massive display wall, over six meters high, with pictures of the Golan and the Hermon on the outside. The centerpiece of the exhibition inside will be a huge contour map of the Golan."

Bar-Lev said it would cost around NIS 1.5 million to stage the six-month roadshow. "We already have most of the money from donations from Israel and abroad and fund-raising is continuing," he said.

"We believe that the more people are acquainted with the Golan, the more they will support the majority view that we cannot afford to give it to the Syrians."

Golan Heights residents' leaders are petitioning the High Court of Justice against the refusal of Channel 2 to screen an advert promoting settlement on the Golan.

The Golan Regional Council and Kitzrin Local Council, through their lawyers Yoram Zamir and Avner Barak, are demanding that the advert be broadcast.

## CORRECTION

The Tehila (special adult education) Choir is conducted by Efrat Knoll of Tel Aviv, and not as reported in our March 6 edition.

## Helms again blasts Syria

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

SENATE Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms has again lashed out at Syria, saying he doubts it would respect a peace treaty with Israel and asserting it has no chance of receiving US financial aid.

Helms's statements came in a letter sent Tuesday to MK Avigdor Kahalani, who the previous week met with Helms's foreign policy aides during a visit to Capitol Hill. Kahalani released the letter Friday to Israeli journalists here.

Acknowledging that the Israeli people alone must decide on a Golan Heights-for-peace deal, Helms wrote: "The US should make no attempt to provide sweeteners in order to induce Syria or Israel to make concessions. This certainly includes the Clinton administration's promise of US troops on the Golan, which I am persuaded would be a mistake."

"Insofar as Syria is highly unlikely to abide by a peace agreement, American troops could easily be caught in the middle of renewed violence between Syria and Israel. Furthermore, our troops might become targets of terrorist attacks from southern Lebanon, a terrorist stronghold."

Helms has been an oft-quoted critic of Syrian President Hafez Assad and last month said he did not understand why Israel was prepared to give up the Golan.

But in his letter, which responded to one Kahalani had sent, Helms took a more activist approach, saying that as committee chairman he would work "to oppose any waivers of any law" that now prohibits aid to Syria due to its inclusion on the State Department list of states supporting terrorism.

"Other US taxpayer-funded inducements to peace that Syria is convinced are in the offing, including foreign aid and military transfers, are out of the question," Helms stated.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Israel maintained that the blockade had been imposed to prevent shipments of weapons to Hizbullah terrorists operating in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese, however, said it was a political measure to put pressure on the authorities to ease strict security checks on residents of the security zone while they were traveling to other parts of Lebanon.

The harassment of residents of the zone, at checkpoints manned by Lebanese army intelligence officers north of the zone, have remained in force even though the naval blockade was lifted.

Meanwhile, a South Lebanese Army soldier was moderately wounded on Friday afternoon when a roadside bomb was detonated alongside his car near Humei village in the northeastern sector of the zone.

The wounded soldier was treated at the scene and later transferred to Marjayoun Hospital. Hizbullah is believed to have been responsible for the attack, the only major incident reported over the weekend in southern Lebanon.

The Jordan Artists' Association said Thursday it has called on studios and music-producing and marketing outlets in the kingdom to boycott Mirage, which specializes in Western music.

The association is a member of a 12-group coalition of leftist-dominated professional unions which have vowed to fight any

form of normalization with Israel.

Mirage, a popular five-member group, paid a four-day visit to Israel this month and staged concerts in Haifa and Acre.

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TEHRAN (Reuters) - Tehran's beating their heads and feet yesterday for the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini.

For five hours, amid the rain, the funeral procession's coffin inched its way south of the city.

Almad Khomeini, a cleric who had been in hospital since Sunday, died of severe brain damage.

## Hikes offered to raise awareness of open landscape

LIAT COLLINS

THOUSANDS of hikers took a free trip in the Jerusalem area yesterday to mark Nature Protection Week. This year the week's activities are being held under the slogan "Save the Open Landscape," and is dedicated to raising awareness about the shrinking open landscape versus development needs and population growth.

"The best way to show people what it means to show them the places that are being affected," said Orit Nevo, spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. The SPNI is sponsoring the week's activities together with the Nature Reserves Authority, the National Parks Authority, the Jewish National Fund, and the Education and Environment ministries.



Hikers get a close look at the landscape in Jerusalem's Lifta neighborhood yesterday, as Nature Protection Week began.

(Elhazar/Scoop 80)

"We are rapidly approaching an apocalyptic situation in which there will be a continuous built-up urban area from Haifa to Jerusalem and Ashdod," Nevo said. "With better planning, we don't believe this has to happen."

"We'd like to see a change in priorities for population dispersion, with budgets for the Beersheba-Kiryat Malachi area, which has room for more people; emphasis on public transportation rather than just building more roads and interchanges;

less building of land-consuming private villas; protection of agricultural land; and preservation of green recreation areas."

Tomorrow, the SPNI is holding its annual gathering for the Arab sector, which is expected to be attended by some 14,000 people. On Wednesday, there is a free day-long seminar on the landscape of the Jerusalem Hills at Jerusalem's Van Leer Institute, and next Saturday there is a free tour of the Samarian foothills and other places.

## Gal makes surprise visit to shipyards, says he'll support struggle of workers

KNESSET Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal made a surprise visit to Israel Shipyards Friday and promised to help the workers in their struggle to ensure their rights if the company is privatized.

Union leaders said Gal promised the committee would not approve the company's privatization, if an agreement is not reached with the workers that will preserve their severance rights.

Gal was given a tour of the facilities by the workers, who pointed out some NIS 2 million worth of aluminum which they said was purchased for the construction of 40 boats.

Gal said that according to appraisals he had received, Israel Shipyards is worth NIS 90 million.

"I agree with those MKs and journalists who say that it is not worthwhile to sell the shipyards at that price."

"The problem is that no one will be willing to even pay that," Gal said.

He said the best economic decision would be to sell off the company bit by bit and to give all the workers the severance pay they deserve.

Gal added that it would be hard to sell the shipyards without the cooperation of the workers. (Itn)

## Palestinians back out of visit to Yad Vashem

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

TWO young PLO leaders and a Jordanian student union head, who were due to take part in a memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem on Friday, canceled at the last minute.

The three did not appear at the bus that was to take them from their Jerusalem hotel to the Holocaust memorial site and apparently went instead to Jericho.

The chairman of the PA Youth Guard, Ibrahim Hreshi, and his deputy, Bassem Baz, were co-hosts together with the Labor Party's Young Guard of a delegation from the European Parliament's committee on youth affairs. After a week of deliberations on the Middle East peace process, the 26 delegates were due to visit Yad Vashem and place a wreath there.

Many Palestinians associate the Holocaust with Zionist propaganda used to justify the creation of Israel and Palestinian suffering under Israeli rule. They charge that many Israelis, while dwelling on their own role as victims, refuse to acknowledge they have become victimizers.

"We have a lot of victims who were killed by the Israelis, and I think the gesture should come from there [Israel]," said Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

The Israeli hosts had attached particular political significance to the participation of the Palestinians and the Jordanian in the ceremony, which concluded the international seminar. They waited for almost an hour at Yad Vashem before conceding that the Palestinian and Jordanian participants would not arrive.

Kanafani said the two Palestinians did not represent Arafat's self-rule government. He said Palestinian government officials have no plans to visit Yad Vashem.

"This [the Holocaust] is a European problem and we don't feel guilty about it," he said. "Let's talk about the living people now."

Offer Dekel, secretary of Labor's Young Guard, said he was concerned that "the Palestinians are not open to learning about our needs and history, about our traumatic past."

He said he believes the PA representatives and the Jordanian student union leader had bowed to pressure from sources in the PA, but that if the Palestinians refuse to acknowledge Jewish suffering in the Holocaust, it is doubtful the two peoples could ever make peace.

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## Lebanese fishermen stay close to shore, fearing blockade

DAVID RUDGE

LEBANESE fishermen went out to sea yesterday but stayed close to shore, as fears grew that Israel had resumed the naval blockade of ports and fishing grounds.

Reports from Lebanon said fishermen in Tyre confined their activities mainly to the harbor and made no attempts to fish off the coast, where naval gunboats could be seen on patrol.

According to the reports, the fishermen were convinced that the maritime siege had been reinstated, although there was no official comment from Israel or from the Lebanese government.

The fears of the fishermen followed an incident Thursday, when naval gunboats fired warning shots over a fishing boat off the coast near Tyre.

The fisherman on the boat told local reporters that he had been detained at sea for over two hours before being allowed to return to port. He said he had been warned that any fishermen who went out to sea would be risking their lives.

The blockade had been in force for a month but was lifted during the recent visit to the region by US

Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Israel maintained that the blockade had been imposed to prevent shipments of weapons to Hizbullah terrorists operating in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese, however, said it was a political measure to put pressure on the authorities to ease strict security checks on residents of the security zone while they were traveling to other parts of Lebanon.

The harassment of residents of the zone, at checkpoints manned by Lebanese army intelligence officers north of the zone, have remained in force even though the naval blockade was lifted.

Meanwhile, a South Lebanese Army soldier was moderately wounded on Friday afternoon when a roadside bomb was detonated alongside his car near Humei village in the northeastern sector of the zone.

The wounded soldier was treated at the scene and later transferred to Marjayoun Hospital. Hizbullah is believed to have been responsible for the attack, the only major incident reported over the weekend in southern Lebanon.

The Jordan Artists' Association said Thursday it has called on studios and music-producing and marketing outlets in the kingdom to boycott Mirage, which specializes in Western music.

The association is a member of a 12-group coalition of leftist-dominated professional unions which have vowed to fight any

form of normalization with Israel.

Mirage, a popular five-member group, paid a four-day visit to Israel this month and staged concerts in Haifa and Acre.

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TEHRAN (Reuters) - Tehran's beating their heads and feet yesterday for the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini.

For five hours, amid the rain, the funeral procession's coffin inched its way south of the city.

Almad Khomeini, a cleric who had been in hospital since Sunday, died of severe brain damage.

Bhutto: Yousaf tried to kill me

Kazakh leader tightens grip

ALMA-ATA (Reuters) - Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has tightened his grip on power, ordering a new election law that will allow him to serve for a second term.

The new law, which was passed by parliament last week, will allow Nazarbayev to serve for a second term, a move that has drawn criticism from opposition groups.

Nazarbayev, who has been in power since 1991, is seeking to extend his tenure beyond the current term limit of five years.

The opposition groups argue that the new law is a blatant attempt to circumvent the constitution and to entrench Nazarbayev's rule.

They also claim that the law was passed in a rushed and undemocratic manner, without proper consultation with the public.

Despite the criticism, Nazarbayev's supporters believe that the new law is necessary to ensure the stability and continuity of Kazakhstan's young democracy.

They argue that Nazarbayev has led the country through a difficult transition from a Soviet republic to an independent state, and that his leadership is essential for the country's future.

The new election law will be implemented in the next general election, which is scheduled for next year.

It is expected that Nazarbayev will win a second term, given his popularity and the support of the military and security forces.

The opposition groups, however, are planning to challenge the new law in court, arguing that it is unconstitutional.

They also plan to hold protests and demonstrations to demand the repeal of the law.

The situation in Kazakhstan remains tense, with the opposition groups vowing to continue their struggle for democratic reforms.

The new election law is seen as a significant step towards the consolidation of Nazarbayev's power, but it also highlights the challenges facing the young democracy.

As Kazakhstan moves forward, the role of the opposition groups will be crucial in ensuring that the country's democratic process is not undermined.

The new election law is a controversial move that has sparked a heated debate in Kazakhstan. While some see it as a necessary step for stability, others view it as a threat to the country's democratic future.

As the debate continues, the people of Kazakhstan will be watching closely to see how the government responds to the challenges ahead.



## Bhutto: Yousef tried to kill me

KARACHI (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said yesterday she was the target of a botched assassination attempt in 1993 by Ramzi Yousef — the same man accused of bombing New York's World Trade Center.

Ms. Bhutto's account left several questions unanswered, but it added a dramatic new twist to the case surrounding Yousef, who was arrested Feb. 7 in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad and extradited to the United States.

Bhutto and top government officials said they only learned of the attempt on her life this past week when police questioned six suspects linked to Yousef.

They said it took place in either September or October 1993, several months after the World Trade Center bombing and shortly before Ms. Bhutto was elected.

Yousef was armed with explosives and was headed toward Ms. Bhutto's private estate in Karachi, spokesman Farhatullah Babar quoted Ms. Bhutto as saying.

However, one of the explosives went off prematurely and injured Yousef, he said.

Officials said they don't know how close Yousef came to Ms. Bhutto's home, called Bilawal House, a large property with high white walls near the ocean.

Yousef was treated at the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi, said Information Secretary Hussein Haqqani, adding that authorities didn't know the patient's identity or the cause of his injuries at the time.

Ms. Bhutto was targeted because she's considered a moderate Moslem leader, the officials said. She has sought to portray her government as a tolerant, democratic administration faced with threats from Islamic extremists, a powerful drug mafia and archrival India.

Yousef allegedly was involved in another bungled bombing effort in Manila, Philippines. Police there said Yousef fled from an apartment Jan. 6 after smoke began billowing out. Police found bomb-making equipment in the apartment and suspect the fire was caused by an accidental explosion. Police think that Yousef was plotting to kill the pope, who arrived a week later.

Since his extradition to New York, Yousef has pleaded not guilty to masterminding the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center that left six dead and more than 1,000 injured.

The night before his Feb. 7 arrest, Yousef made at least two calls to the northwestern city of Peshawar. The calls were logged by the guest house staff and handed over to police.

Using the phone numbers as leads, Pakistani and US law enforcement officers kept several suspects under surveillance for a month, and six men were arrested in Peshawar on March 11, said one Pakistani official who asked not to be identified.

Under questioning at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, the men allegedly disclosed details of Yousef's bungled attempt on Ms. Bhutto.

## Kazakh leader tightens grip

ALMA-ATA (Reuters) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev, exploiting Kazakhstan's constitutional crisis to strengthen presidential power, tightened his grip on the former Soviet republic yesterday with four fresh decrees.

One clamped down on public meetings and demonstrations in a clear move to prevent defiant deputies of the dissolved parliament from stoking up public emotions.

Earlier this month Nazarbayev dissolved parliament after the country's constitutional court ruled that national elections held last year were illegal.

The 55-year-old leader, who initially tried and failed to overturn the court's ruling, bitterly denies that he is seeking an outright confrontation with the legislature.

But he was quick to seize the opportunity and assume powers to rule the country by decree.

No date for new elections has been set, and it is widely expected Nazarbayev will call a referendum on changes to the constitution to create a new-style parliament.

## Ayatollah Khomeini's son dies

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Tens of thousands of mourning Iranians, many beating their heads and chests in grief, packed Tehran's streets yesterday for the funeral of Ahmad Khomeini, son of Iran's late leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

For five hours, amid the emotional crowds, a lorry bearing Khomeini's coffin inched its way along the 25 km route from a funeral ceremony at Tehran University to the mausoleum of Ahmad's father, south of the city.

Ahmad Khomeini, a cleric who held no government position had been in hospital since Sunday. He died on Friday after a heart attack that led to severe brain damage.



Police officers push back Alawite demonstrators during a protest in Frankfurt yesterday.

(AP)

## Alawites in Germany show solidarity

COLOGNE (Reuters) — Thousands of supporters of Turkey's minority Moslem Alawite community took to the streets in several German cities yesterday to demand an end to violence against the group in Turkey.

Organizers said other protests were being held in Vienna, Innsbruck, Zurich and Paris.

In Cologne, police said about 20,000 people took part in a march called to denounce an attack by unknown gunmen on Alawite coffee

shops in Istanbul. The incident sparked four days of riots in Turkey this week in which at least 17 people died.

Police, edgy after a series of firebomb attacks against Turkish property in Germany that have been blamed on Kurdish extremists, said yesterday's Cologne march went off peacefully.

Germany's 1.8-million-strong Turkish community has been unsettled by the firebombings, which police warned could increase with

the approach of Tuesday's Kurdish New Year. The date is a traditional focus of guerrilla activity by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Organizers from the Union of Alawite Communities in Europe estimated the turnout at the Cologne rally at about 50,000.

"We will not forget the massacre," Ali Rizzan-Gulicick, the group's chairman, told the crowd. He called for international solidarity to end repression of Alawites in Turkey.

## Singapore defends hanging

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — The Singapore government issued a lengthy and strongly worded rebuttal yesterday of 11th-hour claims by an ex-cellmate of hanged Filipina maid Flor Contemplacion that Flor was innocent of a double murder charge.

Contemplacion's execution has sparked major protests in the Philippines, where thousands of mourners turned out yesterday to give her body a hero's welcome as it passed through the streets of Manila and later in her hometown of San Pablo.

The cellmate, Virginia Parumog, came to Singapore in the small hours of Friday in a last-ditch effort by lawyers for the Contemplacion family to stay the execution.

Parumog went directly to a police station and signed an affidavit alleging that Contemplacion, a 42-year-old mother of four, did not kill another maid, Della Maga, or the three-year-old son of Maga's employers in 1991.

"These claims are pure fabrication," a Home Affairs Ministry statement said.

"The wild and baseless allegations of Virginia Parumog are yet another attempt to stir up controversy over the Flor Contemplacion case, without any regard for the truth."

Contemplacion was hanged just before dawn on Friday despite appeals from Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

The Home Ministry said that Parumog claimed Contemplacion told her, while both were in Changi Prison, that when visiting Della Maga the two maids had discovered the boy, Nicholas Huang, had drowned.

In the affidavit Parumog claimed Flor told her that, "Della immediately phoned her employer about the incident. Her male employer immediately rushed home. Very angry, the employer strangled Della's neck."

Then, the affidavit states, the employer called the police and implicated Flor in the double murder.

But, according to the Home

Ministry, the facts are that when the police arrived Contemplacion was not at the scene. She was traced later through entries made in Della Maga's diary. In addition, the Home Ministry said, it was not the boy's father who phoned police it was the mother.

The Home Ministry statement dismissed other claims made by Parumog including that Contemplacion had undergone electric shock treatment while awaiting trial and had been drugged.

The ministry said Flor was given two electro-encephalogram (EEG) tests, one of which was ordered by her own defense psychiatrist. The ministry said, Flor was given medication only for headaches and a sore throat.

"During her imprisonment Flor Contemplacion had nine visits by Philippine embassy officials. The government did not receive any representations regarding complaints of ill treatment or claims to Contemplacion's innocence," the ministry said.

## Simpson jury gets first look at blood trail leading to his door

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The jury in the murder trial of former US football great O.J. Simpson got its first look at a trail of blood leading from his car own his driveway to his front door.

The discovery of the blood at Simpson's estate, a few miles from the residence where his ex-wife and her friend were slashed to death, made Simpson "a very strong suspect" early in the investigation, Detective Philip Vannatter testified.

Simpson has pleaded innocent in the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Vannatter said the blood strengthened the opinion he first developed when Detective Mark Fuhrman showed him a bloody glove found at Simpson's estate.

"He became a suspect as soon as I saw the glove. ... It appeared to be a match to the glove, the opposite glove ... I had seen ear-

lier," Vannatter testified. "And then after coming out into the driveway and finding the blood trail, he became a very strong suspect."

For jurors, it was the first account of why Simpson was arrested and what evidence the prosecution is using to build its case.

But it was a slightly different jury that heard the assertions. For the fifth time, Judge Lance Ito replaced a juror with one of the dwindling number of alternates. The judge said he had "abundant good cause" for the dismissal but declined to elaborate. He was replaced by a white woman.

The Simpson jury now has nine women and three men, and is comprised of eight blacks, three whites and one Hispanic.

Jurors were shown photographs of blood smears inside the

That means the only aid reaching the city must come overland. Serbs have been blocking aid convoys for two weeks, but UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said Serbs gave permission for convoys to resume next week.

The Bosnian government capital has about two weeks of supplies.

In Sarajevo, sniper fire claimed more casualties. UN spokesman Pierre Chavancy said a 21-year-old man was killed yesterday in the Dobrinja neighborhood. Hospital officials reported two civilians and one government soldier were wounded.

Fighting has picked up throughout Bosnia as both sides increasingly ignore a truce they signed at the start of the year. Both sides are preparing for more war when it expires May 1.

UN spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Coward said that in government-held areas of central Bosnia, several helicopter flights were spotted Friday, in violation of a flight ban.

In the northwestern area of Bihać, where the truce never took hold, Coward reported movement of Croatian Serb and rebel Moslem troops, weapons and equipment in possible preparation for a new offensive.

Government troops in Bihać have been battling an alliance of Bosnian and Croatian Serbs and rebel Moslems surrounding the enclave.

On Friday, a UNHCR aid convoy carrying 100 tons of food reached Bihać for the first time in two weeks.

Ford Bronco and eight drops leading from the street to his door. Two more droplets were just inside the door.

Prosecutors also showed the jury a photograph that police took that day of a cut on Simpson's left middle finger, and Vannatter explained how it linked Simpson to the murder scene.

At Nicole Brown Simpson's condominium, the detective said, he had seen bloody shoeprints with blood drops to the left, as if someone had been bleeding from a left-hand wound.

When he saw Simpson's cut finger, Vannatter concluded, "It would appear he had the injury that caused the blood drops on the left side of the footprints."

At various times, Simpson's attorneys have said he cut his finger first at his home and later re-injured it in his Chicago hotel room.

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## Spain celebrates 1st royal wedding in 90 years

SEVILLE (AP) — Princess Elena said "I do" inside a cathedral packed with international royalty, and "Long live the bride and groom!" roared from the ordinary thousands outside as Spain celebrated its first royal wedding in 89 years yesterday.

The 31-year-old daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia exchanged vows with Jaime de Marichalar y Saenz de Tejada, a banker eight months her junior, in a 90-minute Catholic ceremony.

The perfectly orchestrated wedding showed off the proud place the restored Borbon monarchy has built for itself since the death of dictator General Francisco Franco in 1975.

Though the king has little direct role in politics, his astute handling of Spain's transition from dictatorship has fostered popular affection for the 57-year-old monarch.

Television cameras perched high above the altar of Europe's third-largest cathedral zoomed in to close-ups of a radiant Elena as she knelt next to her groom in an ivory silk organza dress with a heavily embroidered bodice.

Sofia and Juan Carlos, wearing the dress uniform of a captain general, Spain's highest ranking

military officer, sat a few meters from the couple to the left of the high altar in red plush and gilt chairs.

The princess exchanged knowing glances and comments with her mother, who was dressed in a sky blue silk chiffon dress, a single strand of pearls and a traditional Spanish black mantilla with tortoise shell comb.

Marichalar slipped a ring onto Elena's left hand, but the couple did not exchange a wedding kiss in the public celebration inside or outside the cathedral.

A jovial Juan Carlos opened the ceremony, leading the second of his three children down a red-carpeted path from the royal residence in Seville to the cathedral past thousands of well-wishers who shouted "Elena, Elena!" and greeted the royal family with Andalusia's traditional rhythmic hand-clapping.

Elena, her light brown hair braided in a single strand under a chiffon veil, held back tears as her groom accompanied her out of the cathedral 90 minutes later to climb into an 18th-century horse-drawn carriage.

The princess became the first member of her family to marry in Spain since her great-grandfather Alfonso XIII wed Victoria Eugenia of Battenburg in 1906.



Princess Elena, accompanied by her husband, Jaime de Marichalar, waves to well-wishers after their wedding ceremony yesterday in Seville's Giralda Cathedral. (AP)

## Opposition up as China ends congress

BEIJING (AP) — China's legislature showed signs of assertiveness at its session, with yesterday's voting reflecting unusual opposition to two new laws.

One-quarter of the 2,678 delegates to the National People's Congress did not vote in favor of a new education law, and one-third withheld support from a law on the role of the central bank.

On Friday, 36 percent failed to support Jiang Chunyun's appointment to vice premiership — the lowest level of support ever by the legislature. In past years, tallies have been nearly unanimous.

The new assertiveness comes under the leadership of congress chairman Qiao Shi, who has called for a greater role for the rubber-stamp legislature. Qiao had previously headed China's secretive state security forces and is something of a mystery figure.

But since assuming the legislative post in 1993, he has been vocal in arguing that China's economic development must be protected by a complete set of laws to protect civil rights and combat crime and corruption, and that the legislature must exercise its supervisory role over the judicial system.

Taking their cue from Qiao, legislators this year expressed their dissatisfaction with the ruling Communist Party's appointment of Jiang and the contents of the central bank and education laws.

The education law, which was in the works for 10 years, says the government should continue to provide most of the funding needed to run schools, with money for education gradually increasing as the national economy grows.

But delegates in small group discussions during the two-week

legislative session have said the law doesn't go far enough. Many wanted it to set a certain percentage of gross domestic product that must be spent on education.

In marked contrast with the congress, Premier Li Peng's annual news conference yesterday was more of a staged event than ever.

Li has been giving the news conferences following the closing of the annual legislative session since he became premier in 1988. But the attempts to portray Li as a sophisticated and modern leader have for the most part been a public relations fiasco.

Chinese say Li appears stiff and dull. Many say they watch the broadcast to hear foreign reporters' questions, which sometimes contain references to events ignored by the controlled media.

But this year, only four questions were allowed, and the news conference time was halved to 30 minutes.

Even so, an American reporter slipped in a question asking for Li's comment on the low legislative support for new vice premier Jiang Chunyun.

Li sidestepped the question, saying only that the voting met legal requirements and that Jiang and Wu Bangguo, the other new vice premier, would both enjoy the full support of the ruling Communist Party and the government.

Broadcast of the news conference on national television yesterday evening edited out the reporter's question on Jiang.

The only light moment of the news conference was when a reporter for China's central television prefaced her question on agriculture by saying, "China is a big agricultural province." Li quickly cut in and corrected her, saying "country."

## Ethiopian hijackers surrender

KHARTOUM (AP) — Dozens of passengers on an Ethiopian airliner hijacked to northern Sudan were freed yesterday after the government promised to seek asylum in Sweden for the five hijackers. Sudan's government news agency said.

The release of the passengers ended a 24-hour standoff that began when the hijackers seized an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 on a domestic flight Friday and diverted it to Al Obeid, about 500 km west of Khartoum.

The plane was carrying seven crew members and 85 passengers, including three Americans, four French, two Swedes and a Dane. The Sudanese news agency said. Their names were not available, and Western embassies said they did not have details.

Some women and children had

been released earlier in the day. The Ethiopian hijackers demanded the plane be flown to Greece and then Sweden, but the pilot persuaded the hijackers to allow the plane first to land in Al Obeid for fuel. Sudan radio said all five were armed, but did not say what kind of weapons they had.

At night, a team of Sudanese officials arrived in the town and began negotiating with the hijackers over loudspeakers. The plane was shrouded in darkness because the airport's lights were out.

The negotiators were standing about 20 meters away from the plane, the news agency said. Later yesterday, Ethiopian military and government officials arrived to help with the negotiations.

The hijackers surrendered in the afternoon after government

officials agreed to sign a document written by the hijackers providing for their safety and asylum in Sweden.

The agreement said Sudanese officials would contact the Swedish Embassy to get a guarantee for asylum. It was not immediately known whether the Sudanese government would honor the request, and there was no comment from Foreign Ministry officials in Sweden.

The plane was on a domestic flight from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, to Bahir Dar in the northwest.

There have been numerous hijackings in Ethiopia, most carried out by people fleeing unrest that has plagued the East African nation since the 1991 ouster of President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

## British war heroine 'Odette' dies at 82

LONDON (AP) — Odette Hallows, a British agent tortured by the Gestapo in World War II and the first woman awarded the George Cross, has died at age 82.

Mrs. Hallows, a native of France, died at her home in Walton-on-Thames. The cause of death was not announced.

"How strong the reserves upon which you draw you never realize until you need them, but, believe me they do not fail you," she said of her capture and torture in 1943.

"When I left the Gestapo headquarters that evening there were no nails on my toes. But I had not talked."

She was awarded the George Cross — Britain's second-highest honor — in 1946 and the Legion d'Honneur in 1950, and her story was made into a 1950 film, *Odette*, starring Anna Neagle.

As Odette Sansom — she had married Englishman Roy Sansom in 1931 — she volunteered for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in 1940. She soon came to the attention of the Special Operations Executive, which was working with the French Resistance.

In November, 1942, she landed by boat in the south of France on a mission to set up a Resistance network in Auxerre. When that mission was abandoned, she went to work with the Resistance network operated by Capt. Peter Churchill in Cannes.

Within weeks, with German and Italian forces sweeping through the Cote d'Azur, they fled to the Alps around Annecy, where they were betrayed and arrested.

To protect each other, they pretended to be married.

Her George Cross citation

read: "She drew Gestapo attention from her commanding officer and on to herself, saying that he had only come to France on her insistence."

"By this action she caused the Gestapo to cease paying attention to her commanding officer after only two interrogations."

Mrs. Hallows endured 14 sessions of interrogation at Fresnes prison in Paris, where her back was burned with a hot iron and her toe nails wrenched out. She refused, however, to identify two agents sought by the Gestapo.

"She not only saved the lives of the two officers, but also enabled them to carry out their most valuable work," her citation said.

She married Churchill in 1947 after the death of her first husband. After they divorced she married another Special Operations veteran, Geoffrey Hallows.

In Beaulieu, Scotland, another war hero also died. Lord Lovat, who led his commando unit onto the Normandy beaches while his personal bagpipers played, died at his home in the Scottish Highlands. He was 83.

Lovat, described by Winston Churchill as "the handsomest man who ever cut a throat," was one of Britain's most illustrious soldiers, honored with the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and Military Cross (MC), as well as the Croix de Guerre and the Norwegian Cross.

Simon Christopher Joseph Fraser Lovat, the 17th baron and 24th Chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat, died "very peacefully," a family spokesman said. He lived at Balbair House, near Beaufort Castle, the family seat at Beaulieu since 1511, 16 km west of Inverness.

## Queen Elizabeth returns to SA after 48 years

JOHN DANISZEWSKI  
JOHANNESBURG

HIGHER taxes, soaring crime, what to do about Winnie Mandela. It's all enough to give the new South Africa a headache. But the tribulations of creating a non-racial democracy seemed to recede this weekend when South Africa's royal ship came in.

The yacht Britannia to be exact, sailing into False Bay outside Cape Town in the service of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who today arrives by plane for her first visit to South Africa since she celebrated her birthday here as a shy princess of 21.

That was exactly 48 years ago, a year before the Nationalist Party took power and started legalizing apartheid. A lot has happened to the Windsors since then — and to South Africa.

Now the Union Flag and South Africa's new six-color standard will fly side-by-side in what promises to be a jolly reunion of Mother Country and Returning Prodigal.

South Africa quit the Commonwealth in 1961 when it was being criticized for its whites-only rule. It was welcomed back into the club of Britain and her former colonies only last year, after the election of a black-led government.

The visit by the queen and the Duke of Edinburgh is the figurative icing on the cake.

If the royals find it harder to get respect at home these days, they can look forward to reverential treatment during their week in South Africa, a country still giddy about important foreign guests after decades of isolation.

Buckingham Palace says the trip will be one of the most important of the queen's reign, an endorsement of the country's political transformation. It ranks with her visits to Russia and China.

For six exhausting days, the queen and Prince Philip will be meeting with the high and the low of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Soweto, Pretoria and Durban.

The pomp-filled visit, beginning with the gala docking of the Britannia in Cape Town tomorrow morning, will be a time of rosy nostalgia and a chance to get away from the workaday problems of a government struggling awkwardly to right past wrongs.

Workers were primping the

grounds of Parliament, adding fresh coats of paint and polishing the brass, where the queen will give the keynote speech of her stay in a televised session tomorrow.

Practically every day starts with a garden party and ends with a dinner, with visits to cemeteries, black townships, clinics, and schools sandwiched in between. For four of the six nights, the monarch will sleep on the royal yacht.

President Nelson Mandela, of royal Xhosa blood and raised to be a commoner to kings, ought to be in his element. But he has already decreed that he will wear a suit, not a too-uncomfortable tuxedo, for the state banquets.

Though an African nationalist, Mandela has made a lifelong habit of the English customs and manners he learned as a boy at missionary school in the 1920s.

"I confess to being something of an Anglophile," he says in his autobiography. Particularly important for him, he said, was the model of an English gentleman and British parliamentary democracy and freedom.

For some Afrikaners, who remember with bitterness British concentration camps in the Boer War at the turn of the century, England symbolizes something else entirely. Robert van Tonder, leader of the ultra-right Boerestaat Party, said in a radio interview that his followers would simply ignore the arrival of "Mrs. Elizabeth Windsor."

The British and the Zulus, on the other hand, seem to have mutually forgiven each other for their respective victories on the bloody date of Jan. 22, 1879.

That was when Zulus handed the British their most humiliating defeat in the annals of empire at a place called Isandhlwana. It was also when a tiny British garrison at nearby Rorke's Drift withstood a hellish night's siege behind biscuit tins and sacks of flour, earning 11 Victoria Crosses, the largest number that has ever awarded for a single engagement.

The cross-cultural meeting will be more cordial when Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini is due to give one of his prized bulls to Queen Elizabeth.

In Zulu tradition, the receiver of the gift is supposed to hunt down the animal and slaughter it on the spot.

That protocol seems to have been set aside. (AP)

## Finns may elect more women than men

HELSINKI (Reuters) — Women could achieve a world first by outnumbering men in Finland's 200-seat parliament after today's general election, political analysts say.

The National Council of Women in Finland, an umbrella organization of 13 women's groups working with the campaign theme "101 women into parliament", has a reasonable chance of succeeding in the election.

The Finnish parliament would be the first in the world to have a majority of women, women's groups say. In the last elections in 1991, 77 women were elected to parliament.

The Nordic countries, which have some of the world's most sophisticated anti-sexism legislation, compete informally with each other on getting women elected to positions of authority.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark all have around 40 percent female representation in parliament but only Denmark and Finland have organizations that cross party boundaries to try to get women elected ahead of parties.

"There are more women voters in Finland and so there should be more women in parliament, it's as simple as that," said Laura Finne-Elonen, chairwoman of the umbrella group, called Nytkis.

There are 200,000 more women voters than men

among Finland's 4.1 million-strong electorate.

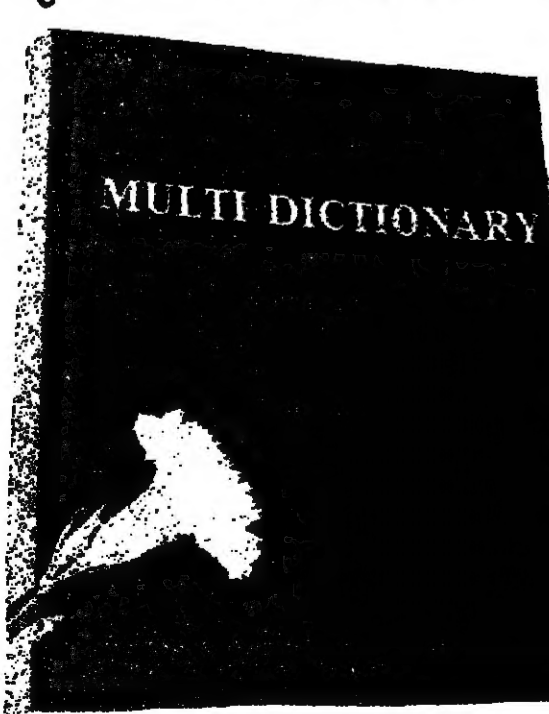
Finne-Elonen said the campaign had increased women's interest in the election and political discussion by and among women had entered the workplace.

Despite their hopes, the number of women's candidates has dipped slightly for this year's poll, from 41.2 percent of the total to 39.1 percent. However opinion polls suggest the parties in which women have the strongest representation will do well.

The Nordic countries' highly developed welfare states and burdensome taxation systems which virtually force both husband and wife out to work are the main reasons women in these countries match men in the workforce.

Finland's small Greens Party and the Liberal Party have the largest number of women candidates, although women are strongly represented in all the major right- and left-wing parties. The Finnish Women's Party is unlikely to win any seats, however. Its strongest candidate is a former Miss Finland beauty queen who has pledged to crack down on prostitution.

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# Debate heats up over cigarette-pack labeling bill

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

HEALTH politics make strange bedfellows. Oddly, Health Minister Dr. Ephraim Sneh two weeks ago took his place on the same side of the fence as Dubek, the Eliachar cigarette importing company and other tobacco interests – and opposite that of the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking (ISPS), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other public health interests – on a vital issue regarding labeling of cigarette packs.

Likud MK Ariel Weinstein proposed that tobacco importers and manufacturers be forced to list on their cigarette packs how much nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide – among the 200 harmful substances that comprise cigarettes – they contain.

The bills of Labor MK Yoram Lass and Likud MK Avraham Herschson would require companies to list only the amount of nicotine in the tobacco leaves. All three proposals received the strong backing of Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Masha Lubelsky, who argued that "consumers have the right to know what is in their cigarettes and all other products they buy."

Nicotine is the proven addictive element in cigarettes: the more they contain, the harder it is for smokers to kick the habit. The tar has been linked to lung cancer, emphysema and other respiratory diseases, while nicotine and carbon monoxide are widely believed to be the major factors in heart attacks and other cardiovascular diseases.

Dubek spokesman Ran Rahav said the tobacco company "favors" listing components on cigarette packs "as practiced in Western countries around the world." He declined to explain

why Dubek endorsed bills that would force it to list ingredients. "It is not in our interest to tell you," he asserted.

According to the Justice Ministry, Sneh at first voiced his opposition to the bills on the grounds that there are "many harmful substances" in cigarettes and that it would be difficult to determine the exact amount of each of them. Thus, said the minister, it would be "misleading" to list only a few substances.

However, after "reexamining" the issue, Sneh decided to support the three proposals, and his vote helped get them through the ministerial committee on legislation a few weeks ago.

But just hours after the committee approved his bill, Lass (a physician and former dean of the Tel Aviv medical faculty) decided to withdraw it because he realized it was "superficial and harmful." After consulting with a number of experts, Lass admitted that he had made a mistake and not considered the issue carefully. "On the face of it, the bill seemed sensible," he said. "I will try to get the other MKs to cancel their bills and the health minister to oppose this legislation, which would allow tobacco companies to mislead the public."

THE AMOUNTS of tar and nicotine given in American tobacco ads are based on the "FTC method" using a machine that puffs a cigarette for two seconds a minute until a predetermined butt length is reached. But FDA labs found that results of the machines are highly unreliable.

One problem is that there are clear differences between the smoking habits of a machine and a human being. FDA experts insist that the way a cigarette is

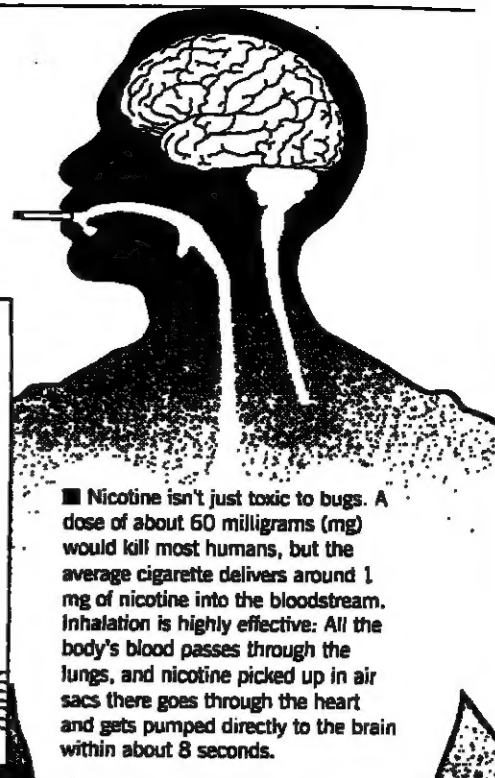
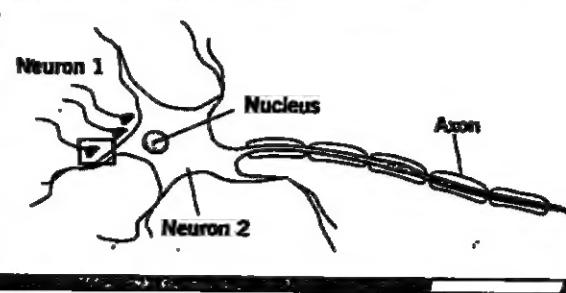
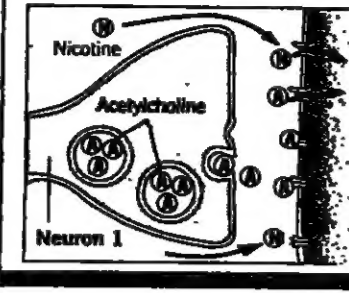
Nicotine belongs to a class of compounds called alkaloids that includes cocaine, morphine, quinine and strychnine. Some plants produce such substances as a toxic chemical defense against insects. In animals, nicotine operates at the junction of nerve cells, or neurons.



## THE EFFECTS OF NICOTINE

Nicotine acts as both a stimulant and a sedative. The first cigarette of the day, on average, can raise heart rate by 10 to 20 beats a minute and blood pressure by 5 to 10 points as blood vessels constrict. Larger doses, however, have calming effects. Studies have shown that cigarette smokers are less anxious and aggressive, more sociable and more efficient at many tasks than non-smoking counterparts.

Nicotine causes its effects by imitating the action of acetylcholine, one of the body's most important neurotransmitters—the group of chemicals that are used to carry signals between nerve cells. In the tiny cleft between cells, called a synapse, acetylcholine is released from one cell and binds to matching receptors on the membrane of the next. Nicotine also binds to certain types of acetylcholine receptors. Thus, like acetylcholine, it can affect the autonomic nervous system (which governs involuntary bodily functions), muscle action and brain activity. It also may prompt the production of dopamine, another neurotransmitter involved in pleasure sensations.



Nicotine isn't just toxic to bugs. A dose of about 60 milligrams (mg) would kill most humans, but the average cigarette delivers around 1 mg of nicotine into the bloodstream. Inhalation is highly effective: All the body's blood passes through the lungs, and nicotine picked up in air sacs there goes through the heart and gets pumped directly to the brain within about 8 seconds.

Nicotine is the proven addictive element in cigarettes: The more there is, the harder it is to stop. (John Anderson/Washington Post)

smoked is the most important determinant of how much tar and nicotine are inhaled.

For instance, Dr. Neal Benowitz of San Francisco General Hospital, in a study of smokers, found that those who switched to supposedly low-nicotine cigarettes usually smoked more, inhaled more deeply or longer and puffed more often than those smoking regular cigarettes – and were in most

cases unaware of doing so.

Amos Hausner, the legal adviser of the ISPS who strongly opposes the bills, says: "The listing of nicotine content in tobacco leaves is irrelevant and misleading if manufacturers use this [cigarette-smoking] device. Companies will try to advertise their 'low-nicotine' products as 'healthful.'"

Hausner opposed listing any components on packets, except

perhaps carbon monoxide, whose statistics cannot be manipulated.

Dubek owns Israel's only nicotine-measuring machine; it costs millions of dollars. If any of the bills is passed, the ministry would be unable to supervise and enforce it without its own machine.

MK Weinstein said Sneh promised him the ministry would buy such a device. Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai commented that to supervise the

law, "a machine would have to be purchased. But the funding source has not yet been decided."

Hausner comments: "Instead of spending so much money on a machine to corroborate nicotine levels which can be manipulated anyway, why doesn't the ministry devote those millions on a public information campaign to discourage smoking?"

Although Sneh signed into law the bill restricting smoking in the

workplace (which he inherited from his predecessor, Haim Ramon), he has adamantly refused to spend any money at all on a media campaign to help youngsters avoid smoking and adults to give it up. His personal adviser, David Zisso, maintained that the minister gives AIDS prevention higher priority than smoking cessation – even though smoking kills 5,000 Israelis annually compared to the few dozen victims of AIDS each year.

Lass suggested that stating ingredients dangerous to health could serve as a "legal shield" for tobacco companies against class-action suits by smokers and former smokers who become seriously ill from smoking. By listing dangerous substances, manufacturers could claim smokers had been warned and that the companies bore no liability.

However, a New Orleans federal judge ruled that a class-action suit by tens of thousands of smokers and former smokers could proceed against the companies; other suits in Mississippi, Minnesota and West Virginia are due to follow. Legal experts believe manufacturers may be forced to compensate millions of smokers for damage to their health.

On March 1, a new law went into effect allowing Israeli consumers to initiate class-action suits if they believe they have been harmed by a product. This could include suits against cigarette companies. Perhaps this is why local tobacco companies are so enthusiastic about the bills.

So, in the face of all this evidence, why is the health minister now in favor of the bills? His spokeswoman says Sneh believes labeling of nicotine levels would "be very helpful and discourage smoking, while at the same time not causing any harm."

## Pregnant women with breast cancer may not need to have an abortion

THE last thing a pregnant woman thinks about is breast cancer. But with the increasing numbers of women giving birth at relatively advanced ages, doctors are coming across more patients in this situation. Doctors used to automatically recommend an abortion for such women, but fortunately, better understanding of both pregnancy and cancer has changed things.

Drs. Binyamin Pinar, Avivit Neuman and Marek Glezerman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Beersheva's Soroka Hospital surveyed medical literature on this subject. Their findings appear in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association.

Breast cancers in pregnant women account for only 2 or 3 percent of all breast cancers in women; they constitute 7 percent of breast cancers in fertile women and 25 percent of breast cancers in women under 35.

The physiological changes in a woman's body during pregnancy

### HEALTH SCAN POST HEALTH REPORTER

– engorgement and increased lymphatic drainage and blood supply in the breasts – can hide a tumor and cause a delayed diagnosis.

Until recently, clinical studies found a five-year survival rate of only 15 to 20 percent in women whose breast cancer was diagnosed during pregnancy, and it was mistakenly believed that hormonal changes connected to pregnancy caused the tumor to spread.

But more recent research has found that if the age of the woman and the size of the tumor are taken into account, there is no difference in survival rates between women who were pregnant when the tumor was discovered and those who were not.

The authors state that a mastectomy operation will not harm the fetus; if breast cancer is detected close to the end of the

pregnancy, doctors usually wait until after delivery if surgery is needed. Radiotherapy to destroy tumor cells harms the fetus, especially during the first trimester, but could be permitted during the last six months of pregnancy. Chemotherapy may be risky as well, but there are few reports on congenital defects due to such toxic chemicals.

A woman who wants to give birth at all costs may have to undergo a radical mastectomy to avoid radiation treatments. An abortion is rarely necessary, unless the mother urgently needs chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Women who give birth after having had a mastectomy are generally not advised to nurse the baby with the healthy breast, because engorgement can hide any lurking tumor and increased blood supply could "theoretically" cause a tumor to grow more quickly.

A woman who has survived breast cancer for at least two years may be allowed to become pregnant again.

## Body-mass index helps calculate heart-disease risk

### Rx FOR READERS POST HEALTH REPORTER

I read somewhere that women with a "body-mass index" of more than 29 have a nearly four times higher risk of heart disease than women with a lower number. What does this mean and how is it calculated? Is this true? B.N., Tel Aviv

Dr. Yoni Yaron of the sports medicine department at Netanya's Wingate Institute answers:

The body-mass index is a system devised to improve the old formula used by US insurance companies to calculate the risk of heart disease of their clients. Previously, they used a simple height-to-weight ratio, which they realized was not accurate enough, so they added three body categories: frail, medium and heavy frames. But this, too, was not very good in reflecting the risks.

The body-mass index was created more than a decade ago. The person's weight in kilos is divided by the square of his or her height in meters. Optimally, the number should be within a certain range: for men between 19 and 24, and for women between 20 and 25. Anything significantly below the lower figure is a sign of

anorexia. If a woman has a 27, she is overweight; if above 29, she is considered to be obese.

Since there is a direct connection between obesity and heart disease, the body-mass index number is important in assessing the general population, but it is not absolute; there are some people with heavy bone structure and athletes with a much larger mass of muscle, which makes them heavier. They are fit even with a high body-mass number. The body-mass index of children may be lower than that of adults.

There are other ways of checking obesity, such as measuring skin folds to determine the amount of fat in the body, or an electrical-conductivity test using electrodes and a weak current (fat conducts electricity more slowly than water).

I am a 34-year-old man and have suffered from dandruff for years. It's worse in the winter than summer. None of the shampoos I've

tried have helped. What causes dandruff, and how can I get rid of it? D.C., Eilat

Dr. Avraham Zlotogorski, a senior dermatologist at Hadassah-University Hospital, replies:

Dandruff is very common phenomenon, but doctors are not yet certain about the cause. One possibility suggested recently is that it results from a fungus that thrives in the more oily parts of the body. It may be that dandruff is the head's equivalent of seborrheic dermatitis that causes flaky skin on the face. There may be individual triggering factors, including seasons, and dandruff can even be connected to stress.

Go to a good dermatologist, who will examine you and may prescribe antifungal agents or other medications. But there is no total cure; dandruff attacks go into remission and relapse.

There is some consolation in the fact that the condition tends

to improve on its own as one gets older.

For weeks after taking antibiotics for a streptococcal throat infection, I suffered from tinnitus (buzzing in the ears). It finally went away. Is there any connection between the medication and the tinnitus? S.T., Arad

Dr. David Cohen, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department at Jerusalem's Shear Zedek Hospital, replies:

I am not aware of any antibiotics with such a side effect. Sometimes, a throat infection may cause the feeling of ringing in the ears, but it is extremely rare.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389327, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

## Laparoscopic surgery: From ridicule to acceptance

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

LAPAROSCOPIC (endoscopic) surgery is becoming so common in the treatment of many conditions that some US teaching hospitals are having difficulty finding patients for their medical students to "practice" conventional abdominal surgery.

This "keyhole" method, in which tiny incisions are made in the body and air is introduced under pressure to increase access to tiny video cameras and scalpels, was first introduced nearly three decades ago for the diagnosis of gynecological problems.

It was initially rejected by conservative surgeons as just a "gimmick" or a "toy." But none of them treats laparoscopic surgery with ridicule today; most of them are doing it themselves.

It has proved a boon to gynecological surgery: removal of ovarian cysts, the uterus, ectopic pregnancies (the embryo developing in the fallopian tubes) and tumors; tying of the fallopian tubes; and correction of malformations of the sex organs.

At the World Congress of Gynecological Endoscopy, which met in Jerusalem earlier this month, surgeons at Hasharon Hospital in Petah Tikva reported that they had even used the technique to remove a fetus that developed dangerously on a woman's appendix.

At the University of California (at Irvine) School of Medicine, 90 percent of gynecological surgery is already performed by laparoscopy, says Prof. (emeritus) Jordan Phillips, a pioneer in the technique who attended the congress. Phillips, who is Jewish, intro-

duced laparoscopy to China and went from city to city in 1979 to demonstrate it before Chinese physicians.

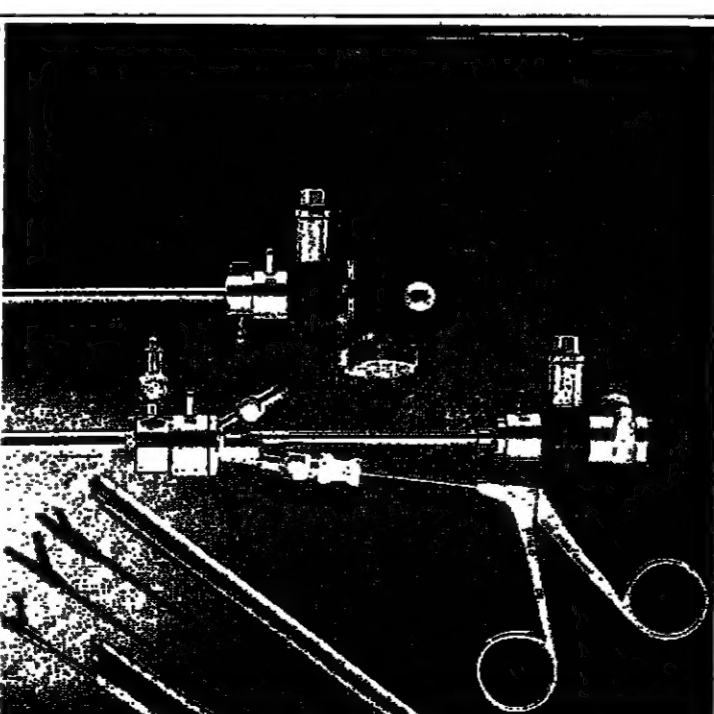
The father of laparoscopy was Dr. Raoul Palmer of Broca Hospital in Paris, he says. The American "father," who introduced the technique in the US, was Dr. Melvin Cohen of Chicago.

Phillips says he himself has been doing it since 1966. In 1971, he established the American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists. Today, he is its chairman of the board, and the organization has 7,000 members. Two of the association's international advisers are Prof. Joseph Schenker of Hadassah-University Hospital and Prof. Shlomo Mashiah of Sheba Hospital.

"In the beginning, I used a plain bicycle pump to blow air into the abdomen instead of the sophisticated pumps we use today," Phillips recalls. "And, in those days, there were no miniature video cameras to insert into the tiny incisions, so we had to use a scope and peek directly inside the body."

In 1986, instead of just looking into the body to diagnose illness, laparoscopists started using the technique to perform surgery. This meant adding tiny scalpels that function by remote control while the surgeon watches its path through the body on a video screen.

"We started with sterilizations and ovarian biopsies, and then moved into removing ovarian cysts and fibroid tumors in the uterus. Three years later, the first hysterectomy was performed by Dr. Harry Pick of Pennsylvania. That same year, general surgeons performed the first chole-



Surgeons are increasingly using tiny video cameras to explore the body through "keyhole" incisions in the abdomen.

cystectomy [removal of the gall bladder].

Today, some 600,000 hysterectomies are performed in the US each year, and a growing number are done by laparoscopy. Phillips doesn't want to get into the controversial issue of how many of these procedures are really necessary. US surgeons have a reputation for being quick with the scalpel for removals of diseased uteruses instead of using more conservative techniques.

Among the advantages of laparoscopies are a much shorter hospitalization, reduced costs to the health insurer, less pain and bleeding, very small scars and

more rapid return to normal functioning.

However, the operation itself is not usually cheaper, because of the high-tech equipment needed. "And surgeons usually charge more for performing laparoscopies, because they say they have to be even more highly trained than conventional surgeons," Phillips notes.

In some cases (for example, when a blood vessel or other tissue is inadvertently severed), the laparoscopy has to be cut short; the abdomen needs to be cut open for a major operation.

Surgeons learn the technique just like people learn to fly a

plane – gradually and at first on a dry run. "It's a learning curve. First they read books. Then they attend lectures and practice on models. Then they watch expert surgeons during an operation, assist an expert, and then do it solo while the expert watches. Then they're on their own."

But unfortunately, Phillips adds, it is difficult for the public to easily assess the experience and skill of a laparoscopic surgeon except from personal recommendations. "The hospital has the right to decide who may do it. But the patient doesn't know how many operations the surgeon has done and how many were done successfully."

Some surgeons will never get the hang of remote-control surgery. They just don't have the necessary hand-eye coordination and dexterity to do it. "I can tell in a few minutes of working on a mechanical model whether a surgeon has the talent. It's very obvious."

The technique is being adapted by chest, brain, urological and orthopedic surgeons. It can be used to remove air pockets from the lungs and will probably be a frequent part of cardiovascular surgery as well.

The obvious next step is virtual-reality surgery: using video images transmitted over fiber optics, a doctor in one city can perform a laparoscopic operation on a patient in another city – or country.

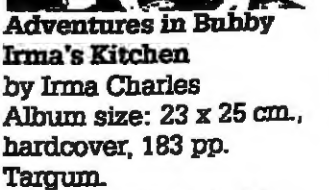
"This has already been proved possible when surgeons on earth recently operated on a dog in space," says Phillips. "By pressing buttons or manipulating devices, the doctor can use robots in the operating room to perform surgery on a patient he has never seen face to face."

## Good ol' Fashion Jewish Cookin'

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## Sarid's bombshell

THE nation owes Environment Minister Yossi Sarid a vote of thanks. Unlike his government colleagues, he believes in telling the people of Israel unvarnished truth. Yesterday, he said what the government should have been saying from the moment it signed the Oslo agreement: Once the IDF leaves the Arab population centers in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and the Arab inhabitants of these areas hold elections for a Palestinian legislature, there will be a Palestinian state in the territories that Israel won in the 1967 war.

This is, of course, contrary not only to the Labor Party's platform but to what Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has been saying until only a few days ago. Rabin's refusal yesterday to comment on Sarid's announcement can only mean that it represents the government's position.

The open recognition of a Palestinian state is also contrary to Washington's official stance, which opposes such state. And it also belies the government's contention that the Oslo agreement is the realization of the autonomy plan envisioned in the Camp David accords.

The late Menachem Begin's concept of autonomy was one of self-rule on the local level, with regulatory and administrative prerogatives but no legislative powers, and with security forces limited to police functions. The Oslo agreement has replaced this with an entity which would have a passport-issuing government, a flag, a legislature, an army, and an array of secret police organizations. From this kind of "self-rule" to a full-fledged state is a step as tiny as it is inexorable. As Sarid put it, the entity he envisions may not be called a state immediately, but except for what he termed "control over external security," it will be, to all intents and purposes, a sovereign state.

(By excluding external security from the Palestinian purview, Sarid avers that Israel will control the new state's borders, and that the Palestinians will not be permitted to form a regular army. But in this he is being uncharacteristically disingenuous. A sovereign state recognized by the whole world — and there is no doubt that once a Palestinian state is declared it will achieve such recognition — cannot be expected to be deprived of any components and attributes of statehood.)

Sarid was not only describing what he considers an inevitable historic outcome. He assured his radio and television audience that the establishment of a Palestinian state will be a salutary development. The achievement of self-determination, he seems to believe, will assuage nationalistic passions, diminish and ultimately remove ancient hatreds, and promote the peaceful coexistence of Israel and "Palestine."

Until such stabilization is achieved, there may have to be a separation between the two entities, entailing strictly controlled movement of people and goods between the territories and Green Line Israel. But once the economy of the Palestinian state gets on its feet — with help both from Israel and the world's rich nations — and the Palestinian government begins to function,

borders will open and full cooperation ensue. To bridge this period of separation, Sarid has even suggested that the government pay the Palestinian Authority NIS 1 billion a year to compensate for losses incurred by Palestinians who can no longer work in Israel.

The trouble with this idyllic scenario is that it is based on fantasy. Its optimistic prognosis relies wholly on the absence of major terrorist attacks in the past two months. Yet what has happened since the Beit Lid massacre of 22 Israelis is not that the Palestinian Police has subdued the terrorists, but that the Hamas has concluded that at this point terrorist attacks may be counterproductive.

In response to Beit Lid the government acted wisely. Instead of accelerating the process, as the Hamas expected and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin recommended, it effectively froze all substantive progress until terrorism subsides. If the Islamic organizations seem to have declared a temporary moratorium on terrorist attacks, it is because Israeli withdrawal from Judea and Samaria is as much their goal as it is the PLO's.

But to assume that this lull signals the gradual disappearance of terrorism, let alone the ebbing of religious fanaticism, nationalist intransigence and plain Jew-hatred, is to ignore all evidence. Yasser Arafat has done virtually nothing against the terrorists, and in his addresses to his own people he still talks of martyrdom and bloody struggle for the "liberation of Palestine." Hamas leaders still preach that only a limited cease-fire with the Jews is permissible. If a Palestinian state is allowed to rise in the territories, it will be the realization of the "first phase" of the 1974 PLO plan for assaulting Israel in stages, not a peaceful neighbor.

What remains puzzling is the timing of Sarid's bombshell. It may be that he is concerned about elements in the Labor party that are pushing for a national-unity government with Likud. By articulating a Palestinian state scenario which remains unchallenged by the prime minister, Sarid hopes to nip such a trend in the bud.

But it is far more likely that the announcement is intended to help Arafat, who is having trouble proving to the Palestinians that the Oslo agreement pays. According to a Gaza poll, a majority of the inhabitants feel they had it better under Israeli rule. Arafat's chances of achieving economic improvements in the near future are slim indeed. Corruption, mismanagement and lawlessness in Gaza ensure that, if anything, the situation will get worse. An announcement by a leading government minister that a Palestinian state is just around the corner may be just the boost he needs.

Yet if the government is truly behind Sarid's announcement, it must be as honest as he is, and admit that this is a complete reversal of the platform on which it got elected in 1992. And it should reach the unavoidable conclusion that it must go to the people to seek a mandate for this total reversal of its most fundamental commitments.

OLEG 95

After Purim, the mask comes off

## Holland or Hong Kong?

BEN DANSKER

UNTIL very recently, one of the greatest issues of concern to Israel — on a par with security, perhaps — was the lack of aliya and, with it, the poor prospects for growth.

But all of a sudden, population growth seems to have become a major concern. Israel's projected population density and what that will do to our landscape and quality of life has been receiving increasing attention, though maybe less than it should. Some people have even claimed that the continuation of the Zionist dream could result in a nightmare.

Change in the demographic and physical landscape may be inevitable. And inevitably, such speculations evoke images of Singapore and Hong Kong. But this doesn't have to be the direction of Israel's future.

Population density can be more a matter of perception than a simple mathematical equation.

At a lecture several years ago, architect and urban planner Moshe Safdie described two hotels and compared their density.

One hotel was set among gardens containing miniature pools and fountains. It had a small but attractive lobby. The other was a huge multi-story concrete structure, with an enormous, unused lobby. The hotel was surrounded by acres of parking space.

The smaller, perhaps quaint, hotel had a higher density of rooms per acre than the monstrosity. Yet it was clearly a pleasanter place at which to stay.

In Jerusalem, Yemin Moshe and the Jewish Quarter both have a very high ratio of living space per acre — higher than many of the new neighborhoods surrounding Jerusalem. Yet both are creative, attractive living environments.

Sometime early next century, Israel's population will reach what today might seem like a startling figure. With or without significant aliya, it will hit seven or eight million by the end of the first decade — during the lifetime of most people living today.

If we continue on our frenzied

quest to duplicate everything American, from strip shopping to 12-lane superhighways to unbundled low-density suburbanization, in a land area vastly smaller than the US, we won't end up looking like a cheap imitation of South Florida or Hong Kong.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. So is population density

We'll look a great deal worse, lacking even the appeal of those places.

The US will always have vast undeveloped forests, mountains, and deserts. Israel won't. We therefore have to pick our land-use models with a little more sensitivity to our limitations.

The future isn't bleak — that is, if we can divorce ourselves quickly from our love affair with all things American.

ISRAELIS are often heard to bemoan the fact that it wasn't Switzerland that became the Jewish heritage. Their longing isn't just for that country's quiet and security, but for the imagined vastness of its terrain. Anyone who has traveled across Switzerland has certainly come away with a strong sense of uninhabited miles and untouched mountain scenery.

The fact is, however, that much of Switzerland — which is hardly even twice the size of pre-'67 Israel — is not only uninhabited, but uninhabitable, consisting of mountain regions, lakes, etc. Much of the rest of the country is pastureland.

Most of Switzerland's seven million inhabitants live in a relatively narrow crescent extending from Geneva to Bern to Zurich. And even the major metropolitan areas are interspersed with lush farmland, valleys, pristine lakes and forests.

So too, Holland, often mentioned as having a population density similar to ours. With almost 15 million people in an area about twice the size of Israel, Holland is hardly the eastern seaboard of the US, or Singapore or anything like Greater Tel Aviv, but a country of farms, tulips, rivers and rugged coasts. So too Belgium, Austria — and even the state of Massachusetts.

In these places, there is a style of development that takes limited resources into account.

While it may be inevitable that some or even much of our farmland will be converted to residential and commercial use, the way in which this is done will be more important in the long run than the quantity of land converted.

An average-size kibbutz or moshav could accommodate the suburban sprawl of a few hundred families, or a small town of a few thousand.

Similarly, commercial development along highways can be of the US Highway 1 variety — with acres of barren concrete parking lots — or it can be attractively landscaped, high-density development, with most of the parking underground.

All public and commercial developments can be landscaped in such a way as to make their destruction from the natural environment minimal.

If we want to model ourselves on the US or Europe, we can pick the best — not the worst.

We can look at beautifully forested industrial parks and commercial centers, and adopt these. We can convert some of our inefficient, albeit quaint, farmland in the center of the country into well-designed parks, and we can make greater efforts to protect our coastline.

Our limited but varied geography can accommodate agriculture, industry, tourism, beauty, growth, and quality of life — but only if the right decisions are taken today.

The writer is a business planner.

## Man or mouse?

JERRY ZEZIMA

THERE comes a time in every man's life when he has to accept the fact that he is just about as dumb as he looks. And there is no time when a person feels dumber than when he is shopping for a home computer.

To prove this point, and to earn the dubious distinction of being one of the last Americans to get on-line, I have recently spent quite a bit of time looking for a PC, which is, of course, the technical abbreviation for "pretty confusing."

Computer shopping can be confusing for one of two reasons. Either you do not understand computer terminology, or you really are an idiot.

Unless you are computer literate, which means you speak a language that in no way resembles English, it is virtually impossible to figure out what anything means.

I offer as an example the following list of common computer terms, along with what most normal people think they mean:

Windows: those glass things on the sides of houses and buildings that let you see outside.

Mouse: what you will have in your house if you don't shut the windows.

Megabytes: huge mouthfuls of food.

Laptop: what you can't see after you have had too many megabytes.

Hard drive: rush-hour traffic.

Floppy disk: back trouble.

RAM: a male sheep.

ROM: how snooty people pronounce RAM.

DOS: Dumb Old Sap, which is exactly what you will feel like

A person never feels dumber than when he's buying a home computer

when you find out that the above glossary is completely wrong.

ALLOW ME to offer the following Computer Tips for Dummies, which come with my personal guarantee: If you believe any of them, you are an even bigger dummy than I am.

Tip No. 1: Don't try to hide your stupidity. The fact that you are totally ignorant about computers will be obvious approximately 1.5 seconds after you open your mouth.

Instead, introduce yourself to a friendly computer salesperson and say: "I am a dummy." Repeat this three times. Then prostrate yourself in front of him, and beg for help. Otherwise, you may find yourself in the following conversation:

Salesperson: This system comes with Motorola 68LC040 at 66/33 Mhz., 4 or 8 megs of RAM expandable to 36 MB, 250 MB hard drive, 3.5-inch Apple SuperDrive, AppleTalk network ready, built-in 16-bit digital sound, a 2400/9600 data/fax modem, Apple Desktop bus mouse II, a 14-inch color monitor, keyboard and system 7.5P installed, plus a one-year warranty. Any questions?

You: Huh?

Tip No. 2: Never refer to computer salespeople as nerds. Not only do they have feelings, but they are there to help you. And they can take a terrible revenge for your insensitivity by hooking you up to a system that, with the right software, will blow you to smithereens the moment you log on.

Tip No. 3: RAM, or "random access memory," means that the memory of the many important things you have been told about computers will be random at best and usually beyond access when you have to make a decision, leading to even more confusion.

Tip No. 4: If you do not buy a computer soon, you will die. That is because technology has advanced to the point where people cannot live without PCs.

Tip No. 5: When you finally buy a home computer, you should learn how to use it. The best way to do this is to go to Computer Dummy School. The store from which I am buying my wonderful new system, for example, offers a six-hour class for people as stupid as I am.

Of course, I'll probably spend the whole time looking out the Windows.

(Stamford Advocate)

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Mufid Sheikh (left) is making a nice living from his unusual goat: he sells its milk for \$50 a glass. The four-year-old goat is special in that it has developed a test alongside its male organ. Sheikh, of Sinriya village near Nabulus, sells the milk as a cure for impotence. (AP)

مكزمان النجف

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BETHLEHEM'S FUTURE

Sir, — Once the land that belongs to the Jews is gradually overtaken and Israel is annihilated, the Christians will be next. As the graffiti in Bethlehem and Beit Sahur in December 1993 read, "On Saturday we will kill the Jews, on Sunday we will kill the Christians."

Christians should not forget their heritage; their roots lie with the Jews and so should their support and alliance. They should also not forget the massacre in Damour in 1976 and that not until the IDF routed the PLO, was the way finally opened for the Christian Lebanese to start to rebuild.

Now Bethlehem stands under the sprouting photographs of Arafat and of waving flags promising Palestine. May Bethlehem not become a second Damour.

MARGARET MILLER  
Charleston, South Carolina.

### THE MINDLESS '60s

Sir, — The Jerusalem Post thinks that the '60s were mindless (editorial of March 10).

Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Germaine Greer, Jeff Nuttall, Timothy Leary, Harvey Milk, Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Tariq Ali, Daniel Cohn-Bendit — were all these people mindless? Were the activist beginnings of Black civil rights, feminism, gay rights, the peace movement, mindless?

The truth is they don't comply with the Post's world view. That is international fascism. If you don't dig it (to use a '60s word), it is mindless.

MICHAEL ELTON  
Tel Aviv.  
Q.E.D. — Ed, J.P.

### 'TERRITORIES FOR PEACE'

Sir, — Despite Dr. Jacob Rosin's letter (February 10), I adhere to the central point of my February 10 article that Israel became overextended — militarily, diplomatically, administratively and operationally — between 1967 and 1973 and suffered anguish and peril as a result. In the extended boundaries created by the 1967 victory, we eventually became more vulnerable and more exposed to successful enemy assaults that at any other time, including the present.

This is no longer a matter for debate. It is a conclusion that flows from experience. The allegedly "ideal" Golan-to-Suez boundaries led to war, not to peace, to a more profuse shedding of Israeli blood than before the victory, to a diplomatic isolation that came close to siege and to a catastrophic decline of Israel's position in the world. These facts were understood so clearly by prime minister Begin that he was moved to make a total renunciation of Israeli assets in Sinai and to advocate the "withdrawal of the civil and military Israeli administrations" in favor of self-government for the Palestinian Arabs in the whole of Judea and Samaria.

Thus, the principle of "territories for peace" is historically a bipartisan Israeli policy in which a Likud government played the decisive role.

Consequently, Mr. Netanyahu's assaults on Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres are directed to the wrong address. It was the Likud, to its credit, that invited the United States to accept the monitoring role in Sinai and now, incongruously, attacks the Labor leaders for drawing the self-evident conclusion about Golan.

Herzliya. ABBA EBAN

### SPEEDING

Sir, — It is a pity that Rami Samuel, the Israeli racing driver, has had to curtail his ambition to win a world title. It is an even greater pity that he is promoting (sic) the idea that fast driving is safe ("Fast... and safe," March 8). It is a known fact that the four young men killed on the Arava road just over one year ago were all extremely skilled drivers; they simply drove too fast and lost control.

If it is true that Samuel intends to open a school for advanced driving, the first thing he should be teaching is road courtesy. If he succeeds in improving both driving behavior and driving performance, he will have done a service to the country. However, if he continues to justify increasing speeds in the land with the highest density of cars on the roads, his contribution will be to the already high rate of fatalities.

ZELDA HARRIS,  
Spokesperson, METUNA  
Netanya.

### JEWISH DESPOTISM

Sir, — What leading political figure is quoted as saying: "What is most important is not what the people want, what is important is what is needed for the people?" Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse-tung, Generalissimo Franco, Fidel Castro, or Yitzhak Rabin? You guessed it — Rabin!

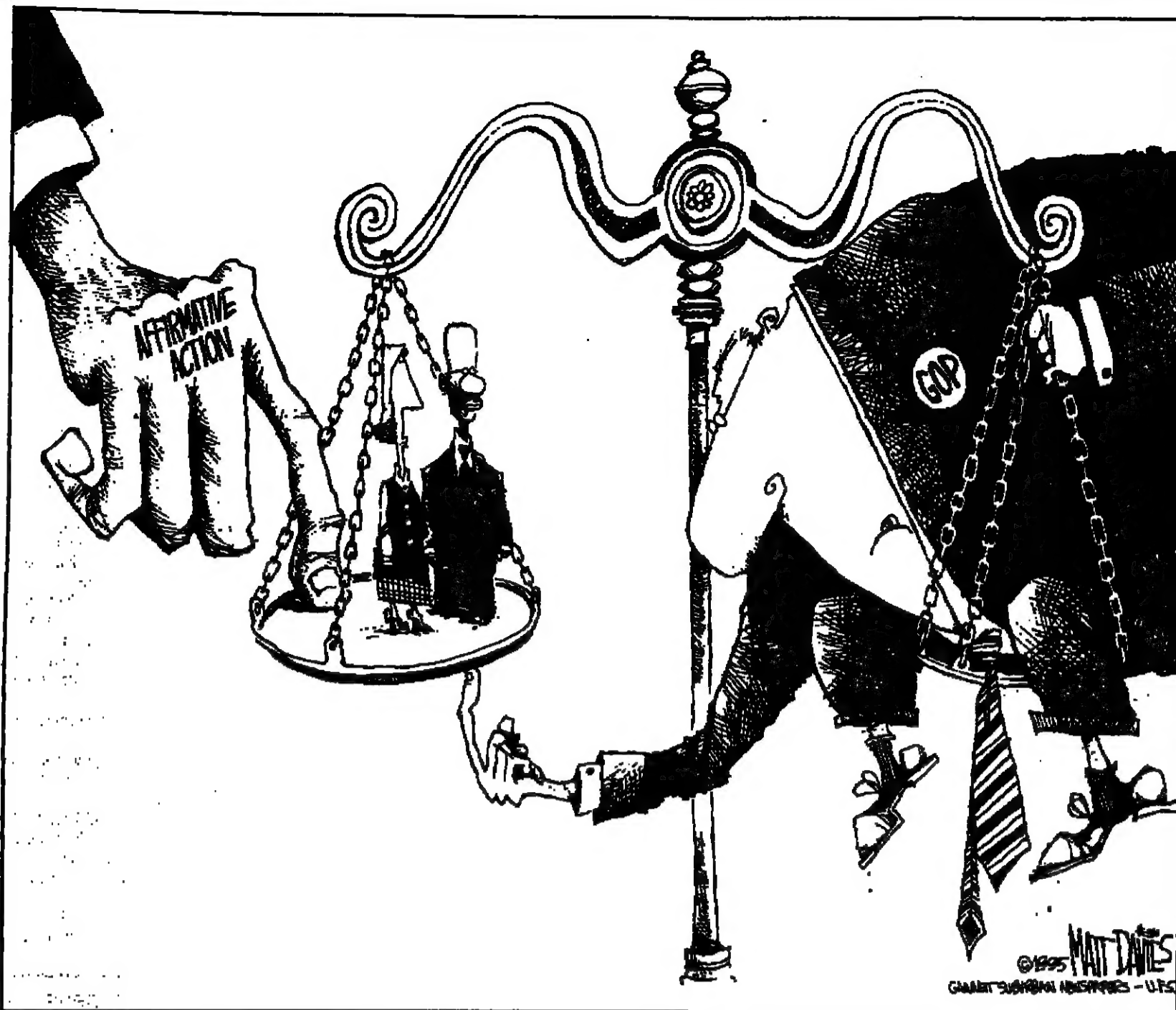
This comment comes on the heels of his recent admission that he lied about his intentions on the capital gains tax. Israelis of whatever political stripe should be revolted by the arrogance of this government. Have Jews dreamed of political sovereignty for two millennia so that they could be subjected to Jewish despotism?

SCOTT SHORE  
Ra'anana.



# AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, March 19, 1995



## Who falls victim to 'loser pays' tort reform?

Under the "loser pays" provision, if a jury rules against an out-of-work, injured, wage earner, he would have to pay the legal fees of the giant law firm that successfully represented the corporate defendants.

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The right of hard-working average Americans to sue big corporations whose negligence has hurt them has been placed at risk by the Republican Party's "Contract With America." Part of that contract is what corporate America euphemistically calls "tort reform." The law of torts — or negligent accidents — is in need of some reform. There are too many frivolous lawsuits, just as there are too many frivolous defenses to meritorious lawsuits. But the answer is decidedly not the "loser pays" provision that some reformers are now pushing. That provision is not neutral reform designed to benefit American consumers and workers. It is a device designed by selfish corporations to discourage lawsuits — both legitimate and frivolous — which threaten their profits.

Consider an average, hard-working American family, whose breadwinner is injured while on the job. He requires hospitalization and must be out of work for several weeks. He consults a lawyer who tells him that he has a fairly strong case, but certainly not an airtight one. If he wins, he will be compensated for his medical expenses, his lost wages and his pain and suffering. His own lawyer's fees will come out of that total, since under current law, each side generally pays its own legal expenses, regardless of the outcome of the case.

But under the "loser pays" provision, if he were to lose the case — if the jury were to rule against him — the out-of-work, injured, wage earner would have to pay the legal fees of the giant law firm that successfully represented the corporate defendant. Their fees could amount to tens of thousands of dollars, even in a relatively small suit.

Imagine the impact such a "loser pays" provision would have on the wage earner's decision to file suit in a solid, but not airtight, case against a large corporation represented by a giant law firm. The wage earner would, in effect, have to gamble his family's home, his children's college fund and his own retirement on the roulette wheel justice often meted out by juries in tort cases. He might well decide not to sue even if his lawyer advised him that he had a 50-50 or even a 60-40 chance of winning, since the cost of losing could wipe him out.

**The goal of tort reform should be just compensation for negligently caused injuries, incentives toward increasing safety and decreasing negligence, as well as overall economic efficiency.**

The corporate defendant, on the other hand, will have an increased incentive to "paper" the plaintiff into quiting by demanding multiple depositions, interrogatories and other legal "foreplay," thus running up its legal bills and raising the stakes. Just as in a poker game between players of vastly differing wealth, the rich player can more easily bluff the poor player into folding by raising the stakes. When a dollar means so much more to one player than to another, the raising of the stakes is not a "neutral" act.

So, too, with "loser pays" in tort. Because the stakes are so much greater to the injured worker than to the giant corporation, the impact of this "reform" will be to favor the wealthier defendant over the poorer plaintiff. This will be true even, perhaps especially, if the plaintiff is a relatively comfortable middle-class worker with a home and savings, and thus even more to lose than an indigent, out-of-work citizen.

What is remarkable about the current campaign for tort reform is that it is directed at those who would have the most to lose if it were to be enacted. Slick TV ads showing the demise of little-league girls' baseball as the result of too many tort suits are carefully designed to hide the real issues. Corporate America is trying to capitalize on America's general disdain for lawyers by arguing that lawsuits are bad for the economy and raise consumer prices. But preventable injuries are even worse for the economy and raise prices even more.

Consider the decision made by Ford back in the early 1970s. Its own engineers told them that the gas tank on their Pinto would explode on rear impact and kill and maim several hundred drivers and passengers — unless all Pintos were recalled and an \$11 change made. The company made a cost-benefit decision that it would be cheaper to let these people die and defend the lawsuits than to make the \$11 change. That decision may have raised Ford's short-term profits, but it was not in the best interest of our nation.

There is much that can be done to control the excesses of our tort system — on both sides. But "loser pays" is a losing approach for most Americans.

## Race vs. Class

### Affirmative Action initiatives under review

President Clinton joins leaders of both the House and Senate to examine more equitable alternatives intended to expand opportunities to minorities and women in American society.

By MICKEY KAUS

Facing a voter revolt in California, President Clinton has ordered an "urgent review" of affirmative action programs. It seems a classic, doomed Clinton venture — trying to please both sides on an issue of principle where a clear decision is required. Either society gives preferences to minorities and women or it doesn't, right?

Well, yes and no. It turns out Clinton is not the only one searching for a Third Way on affirmative action. Practically everybody is. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has called for hearings, not to root out reverse discrimination, but to discover if there are "other, more equitable ways to expand opportunities" for minorities and women. There are good reasons for this urge to compromise. True, even supporters of affirmative action are beginning to admit that its poisonous side-effects now overwhelm its benefits. Yet simply banning race and sex discrimination, without anything more, seems a weak response to the hard persistence of unequal opportunity. Is there nothing in-between? Maybe there is. But some middle grounds are more stable than others.

Here are the three leading Third Ways: "Casting a Wide Net": Thomas Wood, one of the authors of the California anti-affirmative action initiative, says it wouldn't stop the government from taking out special ads in black newspapers to attract potential employees. But this distinction — between drumming up applicants (good) and biasing actual hiring decisions (bad) — was ridiculed by another initiative supporter, California State Sen. Tom Campbell. "If you place an ad in a newspaper intending to reach one race, you're making it easier for one race to get that job," he says. "Logically, it's only a matter of degree."

"Develop Capacities": Even if you don't buy Campbell's logic, the "wide net" rationale won't justify much more than aggressive advertising. President Clinton tried to stretch the argument

in his recent news conference, endorsing "an extra effort to develop the capacities of people" who have "raw ability, but maybe a disadvantaged background." Sounds reasonable. But here the Campbell objection really bites — at least if "disadvantaged" is defined by race. Everybody, after all, has some hidden ability that could be developed by "extra effort." Why should white men lose out because the government decides to only "develop the capacities" of blacks?

Class, not race: Perhaps the "disadvantaged" deserve an extra break because they, more than the "advantaged," are likely to have untapped talents. But if that's the rationale, then affirmative action should be based squarely on disadvantage, not race. The son of a poor white coal miner is more likely to have undiscovered abilities than the daughter

of a black Harvard professor.

Here we arrive at the hottest idea in social engineering: the notion that class should replace race and gender as the basis for affirmative action. Supreme Court Justice

William Douglas advanced this idea more than two decades ago when he called for affirmative action based on "socioeconomic disadvantage." Antonin Scalia once said he "strongly" favored the idea. Clarence Thomas has suggested it. Jack Kemp endorses it. Even Clinton talks about emphasizing "need-based programs."

Class-based affirmative action has an obvious appeal. It treats people as individuals, avoiding toxic racial generalizations. It can be presented as an extension of meritocracy — lower-class candidates, with their hidden abilities, will eventually outperform more privileged rivals.

But the virtues of the idea are almost immediately clouded over by doubts. First, there's the

complexity problem. A class-based scheme might require rating every applicant on a "disadvantage scale." (Who gets more bonus points — a poor white from a lousy rural school or a black ghetto kid from a decent "magnet" school?) Then there's the question of stigma. Race-based affirmative action, we're told, afflicts its beneficiaries with crippling self-doubt. They are never sure they really measure up. Will someone who gets into Yale by virtue of "socioeconomic disadvantage" be any less stigmatized? Finally, class-based affirmative action still rewards those who play the victim. Do we want a society in which every ambitious student learns to nurture his class grievances as a source of future power?

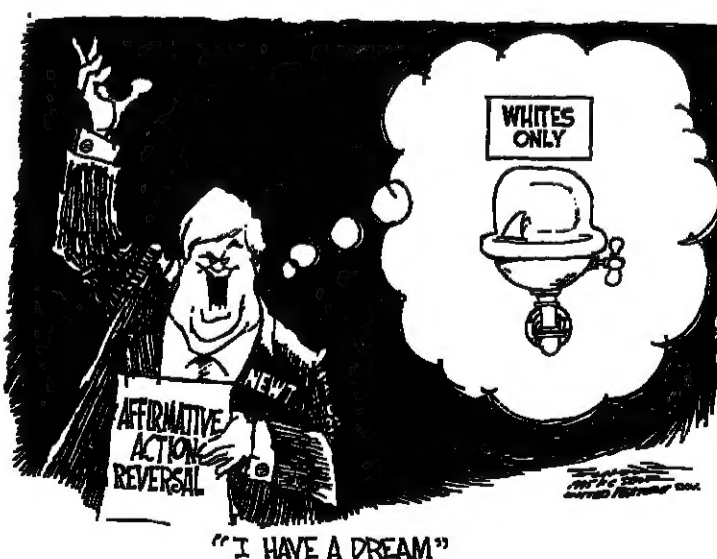
All this suggests class-based preferences should be tightly restricted. It would be handy if

the preference could be limited to a small, well-defined class, at the very bottom of society. This class happens to exist: the "underclass," 2 million or 3 million impoverished citizens living in neighborhoods filled with non-working, non-families. Indeed, current Republican rhetoric divides

society into roughly two groups: "normal" Americans in the mainstream working culture, and underclass Americans, mainly black, trapped in a ghetto "culture of poverty."

If Clinton must embrace class-based preferences, why not restrict them to this latter group? Then he could tell Republicans: if you end ghetto poverty, you can end affirmative action.

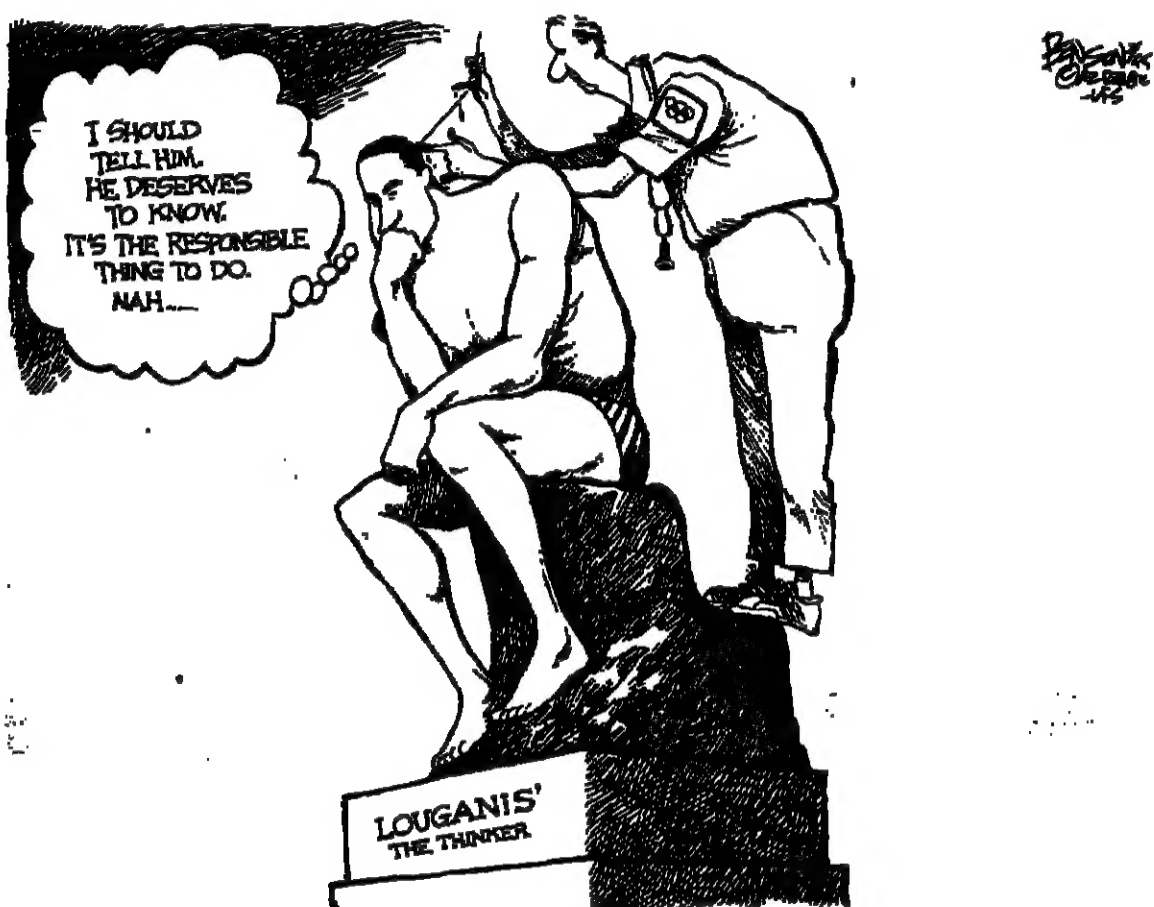
Mickey Kaus is a senior editor of The New Republic



"I HAVE A DREAM"



# EDITORIAL CARTOONS



FEIFFER



UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



## National Insecurity: Abolishing the CIA

By CHARLES LANE

Senator Daniell Patrick Moynihan has said that the Central Intelligence Agency should be abolished, because the cold war is over. If this idea is adopted, however, we will be deprived of such amusing tragicomedies as the recent French roll-up of a characteristically ham-handed CIA plot. American spies were trying to steal commercial secrets from the French government. But the informant on the receiving end of the proverbial suitcase of 500 Franc notes turned out to be a double agent.

Now that the laughter has died down, a serious question can be addressed: Should the CIA have been doing this in the first place? I don't mean spying on a "friend" like France. National security sometimes requires using agents in friendly nations — even those, like France, with whom we have officially agreed to share intelligence. Others do it to the United States all the time: Just ask Jonathan Pollard, or the French agents kicked out of the United States two years ago for stealing industrial secrets. Nor is it unheard of that U.S. agents should seek inside information about France's thinking on the GATT talks. Treaty negotiations are a basic function of the federal government, in which the CIA has long assisted.

What is new (relatively speaking) is the notion that America's next "battle" is the economic one with "former" cold war allies such as France, Japan and Germany. Much of the intellectual impetus for "economic intelligence" comes from think tanks and scholars who view Japan and Germany as corporatist states with whom we are locked in a struggle for prosperity. Those countries, the argument goes, subordinate all government functions, intelligence included, to serve trade, and so should we.

This vision — less urgent now that the U.S. economy has racked up several consecutive years of outperforming Japan and Europe, with little help from the CIA — suffers from basic ambiguities. For the most part, the huge foreign government contracts for construction, arms or aircraft that the CIA is most likely to learn of

will go to only a handful of giant, capital-intensive American firms. A secret U.S. government campaign to ferret out competitively valuable information may be in these companies' interest. But is it in the national interest — particularly considering the cost per job?

Still, President Clinton has defined national security to include "economic security." For Clinton, the business of foreign policy is business. American embassies have been ordered to promote exports and investment aggressively, and the intelligence community — beset by morale problems stemming from the Aldrich Ames case and desperate for a mission to justify itself — is under pressure from Congress to join the crusade. According to The Washington Post, Sens. Arlen Specter and Bob Kerrey, the chairman and top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, have prodded the agency to pass companies intelligence that affects their interests.

The CIA's policy, apart from a deviation during the Carter administration, has been to resist this pressure, on the sensible grounds that it would inevitably wind up playing favorites. Former Director Robert Gates used to quote a case officer as saying, "I'm prepared to give my life for my country, but not for a company." Director James Woolsey, who resigned in January, generally agreed. But he did buy into the concept to a certain degree. In 1993 he boasted of the CIA's efforts to discover violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (i.e., bribes) by foreign companies or governments. The agency found that the French had bribed Brazilian officials to land a \$1.4 billion contract to provide Brazil with a radar system; the CIA then told the State Department, which told Brazil. Raytheon got the contract. Similarly, U.S. firms in 1994 snatched away from France a bundle of lucrative arms and aircraft sales to Saudi Arabia.

There is a naïvete to the notion that the CIA's veil of secrecy somehow confers special competence to sniff out vital economic data. This is, after all, the bureaucracy that missed Ames's double-dealing for 10 years, and flubbed the answer to the most important economic question with which it was concerned for 40 years: the health of the Soviet economy. On a matter such as, say, trends in oil

prices, there is probably little that a CIA analyst can divine from secret sources that a State Department or Commerce Department analyst working from the ample open sources could not. Indeed, why should the CIA be able to do a better job at this than The Financial Times or Salomon Brothers — both of which will be able to afford to pay the best people more than the government can?

Nevertheless, experts from the agency are now competing for the best contacts abroad with State Department commercial and economic attaches — just as CIA agents thrust into the drug war have fought turf battles with the Drug Enforcement Agency. Economic intelligence-gathering is a redundant activity that dilutes the agency's focus and stretches its resources. If we need a clandestine foreign intelligence service, it is to gather information and carry out covert actions related to classic security matters. That means political and military threats such as terrorism, weapons proliferation and hostile political movements. That should be enough to keep the CIA busy.

There's no guarantee that more reports from Langley will help protect us from economic "threats," even if the reports were accurate. Presidents often ignored or misinterpreted CIA briefings on the Soviet threat: Clinton Treasury officials were perfectly aware, through basically open channels, that Mexico's peso was overvalued and headed for a crash — months before it happened. Far lot of good that did us.

Charles Lane is a senior editor of The New Republic

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curity:  
e CIA

# SUNDAY COMICS

## Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



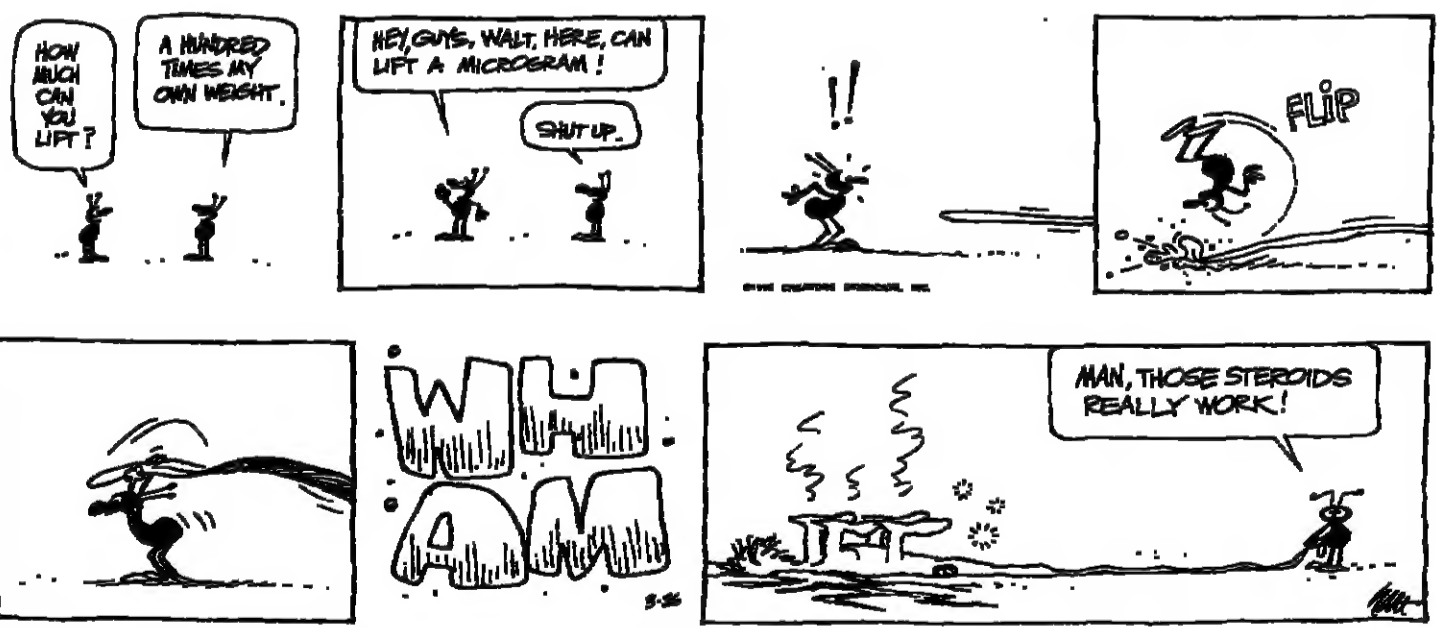
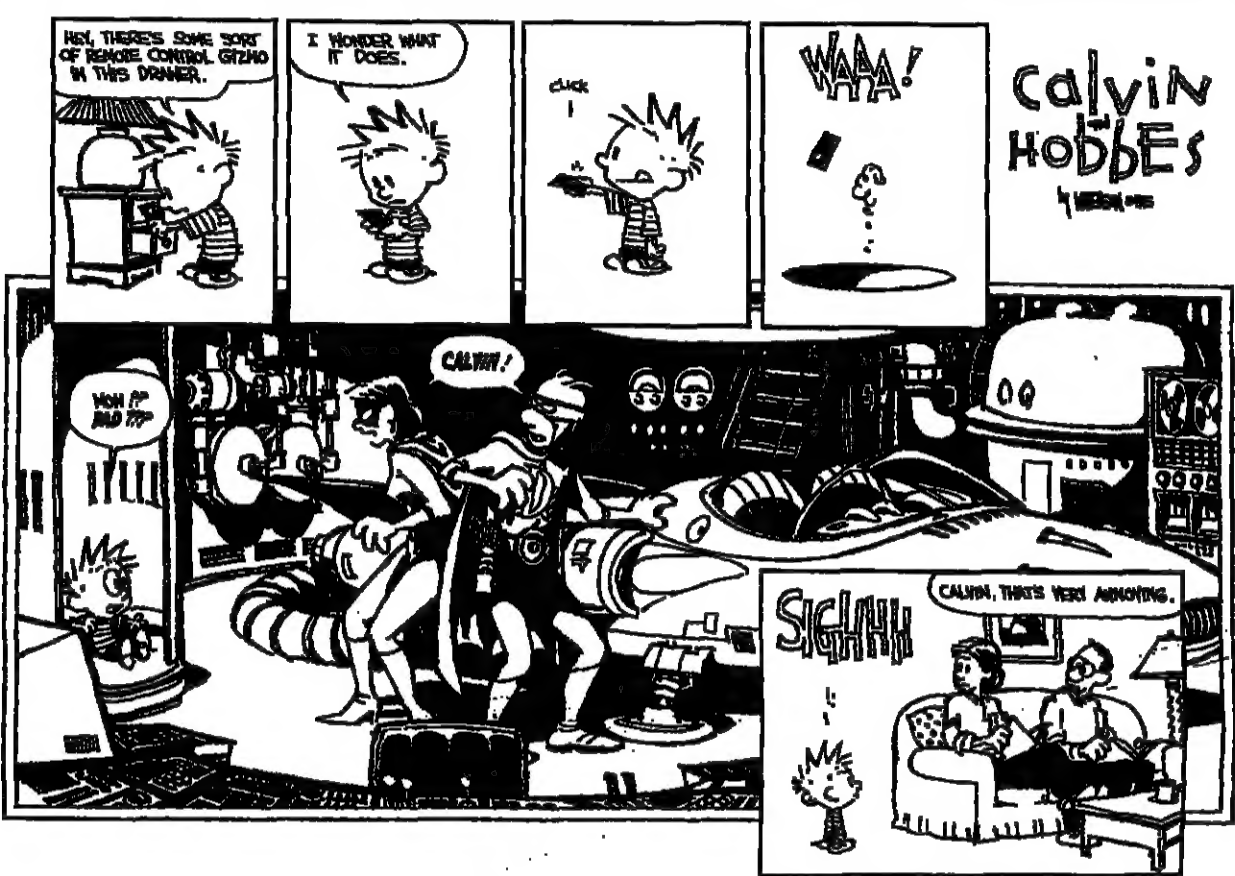
## PEANUTS

by Schulz



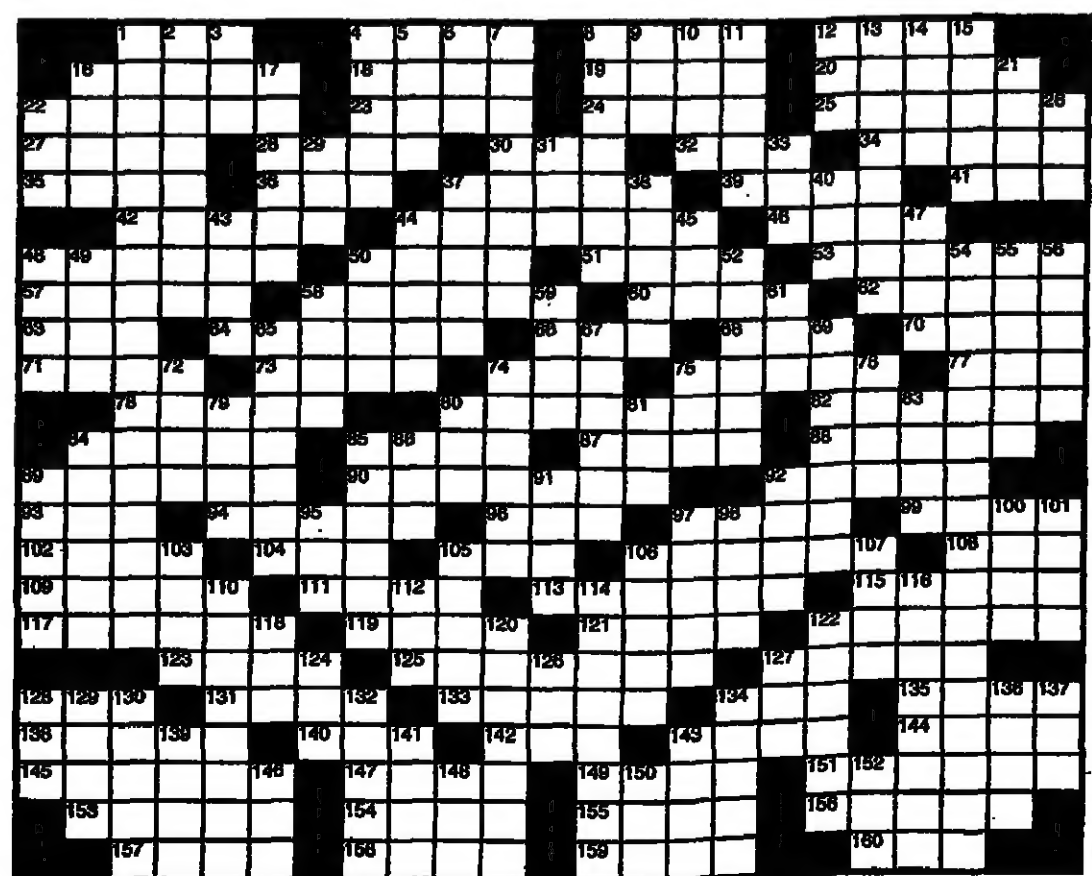
## Side

By Jeff Meyers



## TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 How's that?
  - 4 — year, 995 days
  - 8 E phusius —
  - 12 Sell support
  - 16 Sudden terror
  - 18 Wileed red
  - 19 Planet Peter —
  - 20 Gentry or Fudd
  - 22 Beard of grain
  - 23 Compoted
  - 24 Litter to
  - 25 Picky plant
  - 27 Shoe part
  - 28 Subsoos rod
  - 30 Cell — day
  - 32 Race circuit
  - 34 "To — own self
  - 36 Out of danger
  - 38 Color
  - 39 Wide open
  - 40 Stargy alternative
  - 41 Head sign
  - 42 German city
  - 44 Principle
  - 46 Lip
  - 48 Describing a sticky complexion
  - 50 Swing around
  - 51 Time period
  - 53 Brawl
  - 57 Swollen membrane
  - 58 Baby's shoe
  - 60 Maribee Indian
  - 62 Take as one's own
  - 64 Numero —
  - 64 Aisle's neighbor
  - 66 Ignited
  - 68 Laid I want
  - 70 — about
  - 71 Mr. Gingrich
  - 73 Hawaiian goose
  - 74 Kitchen utensil
  - 75 Caribbean island
  - 77 Turkish official
  - 78 Plant's need
  - 80 Wound dressing
  - 82 Bashed
  - 84 Baseball's Yogi —
- DOWN**
- 1 Superstition
  - 2 Inappropriate
  - 3 — the spot: satily
  - 4 Crest —
  - 5 That's life
  - 6 Egress
  - 7 Pub potion
  - 8 Sad
  - 9 Wedding-page word
  - 10 Russian river
  - 11 Type of eat
  - 12 In place
  - 13 Overabundance
  - 14 Aalen nurse
  - 15 Lacquer ingredient
  - 16 Malayan boat
  - 17 Type of nut
  - 21 Gambling town
  - 22 Bure
  - 26 Conducted
  - 28 Play on words
  - 31 Great letter
  - 32 Vestly
  - 37 Critical
  - 38 Vote into office
  - 40 Sandy's cry
  - 43 Foodish clinic slang
  - 44 Siding area
  - 45 Corn unit
  - 47 Pedestal part
  - 48 Twisted
  - 49 Top-notch
  - 50 Before long
  - 52 Raised
  - 54 Schwarzzeegger role
  - 55 Orbital high point
  - 58 Valuable violin
  - 60 — Rabbit
  - 61 Wave
  - 61 Australian bird
  - 65 Dig up
  - 67 Shade of blue
  - 68 Papalave
  - 72 Omelet pie
  - 74 Boy Scouts unit
  - 75 What stalfato
  - 76 Atmosphere
  - 78 — barn
  - 80 Apron top
  - 81 Smashing curve
  - 82 Cartoonist
  - 83 Thomas —
  - 84 Watch out
  - 85 Meeting
  - 86 Baseball oil
  - 88 — the horrible
  - 91 Auth. unknown
  - 92 Bowling alley
  - 93 Monotonous routine
  - 97 Worn-out
  - 98 Paris airport
  - 100 Skore event
  - 101 Rio scene
  - 103 Oklahoma town
  - 105 Word used with
  - 106 Best or work
  - 107 Singer Tennille
  - 110 Fragrant
  - 112 Public transport
  - 114 Vestly
  - 116 Business
  - 118 Actress Arden
  - 120 Footing
  - 122 Quenched
  - 124 Shade tree
  - 126 Rude metal
  - 127 Sincere
  - 128 Needlefish
  - 129 Actress Barbara —
  - 130 Fernando or
  - 132 Eagle's claw
  - 134 Blunder
  - 135 Fuzz
  - 137 Part of a journey
  - 138 Swelling
  - 141 Skin opening
  - 143 Lion's pride
  - 145 Ingest
  - 146 Turn right
  - 150 Oath
  - 152 Strong liquor





# New Fed rules torture logic

By PETER SCHUCK

The Contract with America is about to be breached. Major civil litigation proposals just passed the House and now go to the Senate. If enacted, they will transform tort law, including the laws governing product liability and other personal injury claims. For victims of corporate wrongdoing, this new legal order will not be a pretty sight.

While the pending legislation contains some promising ideas, most of it flagrantly violates the contract's three central assumptions: that the dead hand of federal uniformity is stifling innovation and local choice; that middle-class and low-income consumers and accident victims need greater legal protection; and that the law must be based on "common sense." These violations should seriously trouble not only liberals but also the conservatives and neo-liberals who subscribe to the contract's tenets.

Consider first the "Common Sense Product Liability and Legal Reform Act." Ever since colonial times, tort law has been governed almost exclusively by state law. State courts and legislatures have gradually refined tort law, in some cases even eliminating it and substituting no-fault systems, as with workplace and auto accidents. The new legislation would change all this by making products liability law federal, and for no good reason. While objective experts have rightly criticized much of tort law, they have seldom objected to torts' state law status. Quite the contrary.

The Republicans, however, claim that state-to-state differences in product liability threaten the financial and competitive well-being of U.S. firms. For two decades, Congress has rejected this. In the single instance when it ventured into the field, it decided to use existing state law rules almost entirely rather than adopting a new set of federal ones.

Besides, since the 1960s, states' laws have tended to converge. Many states have adopted strict product liability principles that do not require plaintiffs to prove a manufacturer was negligent. Of course, product liability plaintiffs still take home bigger awards in some states than others. But it's not the rules that cause the variation in the size of the awards juries hand down; it's the jurors. Uniform rules would have little effect on jury awards within a state.

The case for a federal products liability law, then, cannot rest on the inherent value of uniform state laws. It must rest, if at all, on the superior content of the rules that Congress would impose on the states. Would the newly mandated rules be so much better than existing state rules as to justify pre-empting them? For the most part, the answer is no.

To be sure, several of the new rules are designed to deal with real weaknesses in state

tort law. Some states' punitive damage rules, for example, allow juries to add exorbitant monetary penalties on top of compensatory damages. Using the relaxed standards of civil law rather than the more rigorous ones of criminal law, they can impose severe punishment simply by finding that the defendant was reckless.

Until recently, demands for punitive damages were rare in tort cases. Evidently, they're now the norm. Yale professor George Priest, studying two Alabama counties, found that almost all tort plaintiffs now seek punitive damages. Although awards are far less common, juries eager to "send a message" can render outlandish awards that the courts often uphold. In an Alabama case last year, for example, a life insurance company's agent committed fraud on a \$25,000 policy, causing the policyholders two weeks of sleeplessness but no real economic losses; yet the court upheld a \$25 million award. So, the bill's reforms in these areas are welcome.

The new legislation also rightly zeroes in on some states' joint liability rules. These rules allow plaintiffs in many multi-defendant cases to hold one defendant liable for all of the damages — including those it did not cause — so long as the jury cannot readily distinguish its causal contribution from those of the other defendants. This rule is unjust when the most culpable defendants are insolvent, while the fault of the one who must pay was relatively minor.

Unfortunately, the House's solutions to these real problems are flawed. The bill offers two solutions: capping punitive at either \$250,000 or three times the compensatory damages; and limiting joint liability to the plaintiff's economic damages (for pain and suffering would be paid only by those clearly at fault). Although these reforms are steps in the right direction, they need further refinement. The punitive provision is too rigid for the extraordinary range of tort cases. The new joint liability rule will simply replace one injustice with another: namely, by making a wholly innocent victim rather than a partly guilty defendant bear the risk of some defendants' inability to pay.

Then there's the promising-sounding "Attorneys Accountability Act." This reform would alter litigation in federal court cases in which state law controls the dispute. The most far-reaching change would impose a "loser pays" rule. A party who rejects another party's settlement offer and then fails to obtain an outcome more favorable than the rejected offer would pay a price for his intransigence: specifically, he'd foot his adversary's post-offer expenses, including attorneys' fees. This amounts to a radical reversal of the traditional American rule, under which each party bears his own expenses. More important, it betrays the contract's commitment to make the law serve the interests of

middle-class and poor people. This reform would effectively bar them from the federal courts by threatening them with ruinous costs if their suits turned out to be unsuccessful. If the Republicans really want to help ordinary tort victims, they should support a proposal advanced by Virginia law professor Jeffrey O'Connell and others that would tie plaintiffs' lawyers' compensation more closely to the work and value they actually produce.

"Loser pays" would either wreak great injustice or be ineffectual. A person of modest means could sue only on a sure thing, when he might find a contingency fee lawyer to take his case. But since the new rule would apply only to certain federal court cases, plaintiffs could readily avoid it: they would need only to file their claims in state court (rather than federal), where the traditional rule would apply. There are good arguments for keeping such cases in state court; but this is surely a roundabout way to do it.

A third goal of the contract is to simplify the law so that it's cheaper, more predictable and makes "common sense." But, again, the proposed legislation will do just the opposite, creating makework for lawyers. Meanwhile, the new law will give rise to endless legal uncertainties. Under the "loser pays" reform, courts will have to determine the cost of a certain kind of fee (it's called "non-contingent") that simply does not exist for most personal injury claims. The reform also contains an exception for cases in which forcing the loser to pay would be "manifestly unjust." This term, however, is open-ended, and the provision would probably require courts to compare the parties' wealth — an action that violates traditional notions of legal equality.

Perhaps the greatest confusion will be sown as courts attempt to integrate ill-defined new federal rules with whatever parts of state tort law Congress meant to preserve (a matter left unclear). An entirely new body of statutory interpretation will be necessary: state courts will be trying to figure out which parts of their long-evolved tort jurisprudence remain viable, while federal judges, who must often rely entirely on state law, will be more confused than ever about what that law is. To Joe Sixpack, this new jurisprudence will be even more technical and opaque than the old one.

So much for "common sense" reforms to reduce legal complexity and protect ordinary Americans from federal overreaching. In an act of legal contortion worthy of the most cunning Wall Street lawyer, the Contract with America has managed to breach itself.

Peter Schuck, the Baldwin Professor of Law at Yale University, writes frequently on legal subjects, including tort reform.

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## GOP Old Bulls Having Trouble With 'Contract'

By ROBERT NOVAK

The weeklong agonizing by Senate Republicans over what to do about Sen. Mark Hatfield underlined a hard political fact of life: The Old Bulls who are now committee chairmen have not come to grips with the election returns of Nov. 8.

Hatfield's defection on the balanced budget amendment showed that he and other chairmen do not understand that they now head committees because the voters expect results. The aborted effort to depose Hatfield as Appropriations Committee chairman was an attempt to fire a shot across the bow of the Bulls to show they must produce.

Nobody can predict whether the internal Republican turmoil had its desired effect. But if the other Contract With America items passed by Speaker Newt Gingrich's House meet the same fate as the balanced budget amendment, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole will encounter growing pressure to intervene.

Published reports that Sen. Connie Mack could collect only two or three senators in his effort to strip the 72-year-old Hatfield of his chairmanship are nonsensical. There was never any intent to bring the issue to a vote. Had there been, at least half of the Senate's 54 Republicans would have voted to discipline Hatfield — and this without help from Dole. Had the majority leader joined in, Hatfield would have been forced out.

Hatfield's so-called "conscience" vote against the balanced budget amendment (an idea he once embraced) would not in itself have generated much dismay. It is the general attitude taken by Hatfield since Nov. 8 that led Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott to refer to him over CNN as "arrogant."

**The tone set by the Old Bulls is that the Senate majority won Nov. 8 was a natural phenomenon rather than a mandate requiring action**

In a New York Times interview published Nov. 20, Hatfield was consciously dismissive of the election returns, asserting that he was "prepared to work with the White House" and would engage in "bridge-building" with Democrats. When freshman Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee asked Hatfield about the Times article, Hatfield smiled and said: "Don't believe everything you read in the papers."

But maybe he should have. Hatfield's colleagues grumble that his Democratic predecessor at Appropriations, the formidable Sen. Robert Byrd, is treated as a "co-chairman." House efforts to cut domestic outlays and boost military spending have run into a Hatfield-Byrd shredder.

Hatfield is not alone. His fellow liberal Republican, Sen. John Chafee, is not congenial to the Contract With America's deregulatory impulses as Environment and Public Works chairman and as a Finance Committee member has summarily rejected the Contract's promised tax cuts. Even conservative Sen. Orrin Hatch, the Judiciary Committee chairman, declares non-support for the Contract.

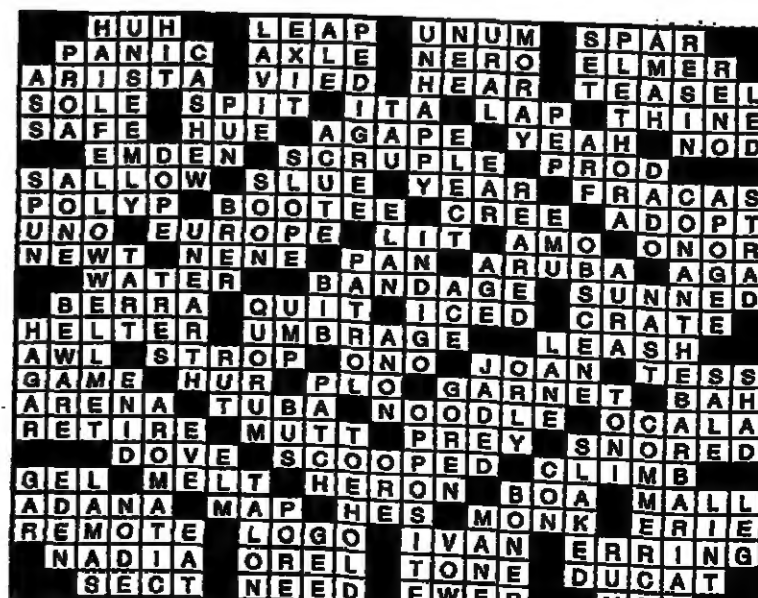
The tone set by the Old Bulls is that the Senate majority won Nov. 8 was a natural phenomenon rather than a mandate requiring action. Lott, supported by most of the 11 freshmen and many other junior members, believes the Senate must follow a path similar to Gingrich's.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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"AS EXPECTED, A HARSH COLD FRONT HAS BLOWN IN FROM WASHINGTON... & IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE STUCK IN THE MID 50'S FOR A WHILE..."

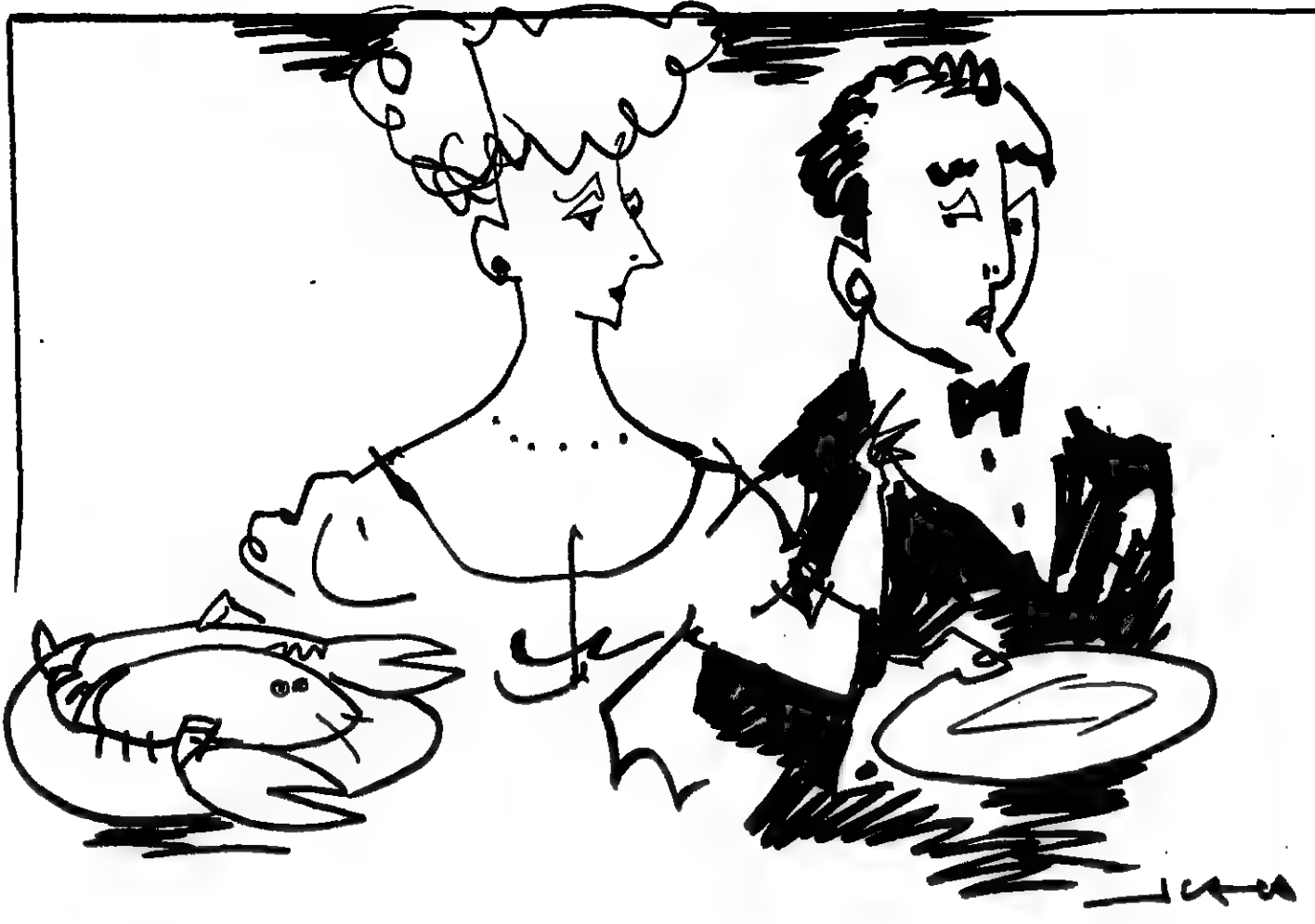


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# An Israeli diplomat's life: Wine, whimsy and soccer

Who else could make news by fishing? Or be asked to save a Jewish community from a soccer referee? Only a veteran in the foreign service, **Ronnie Sivan** writes



It is said that a British diplomat is an honest man who goes abroad to lie for his country. Based on my experience in that line of work, I am inclined to define an Israeli diplomat as a hungry man who goes abroad to dine for his country.

One such dinner springs to mind. I was invited in Copenhagen to dinner one night by a certain ambassador. The first course was lobster. Our hostess wanted to know why I wasn't eating it and after some prodding I mentioned kashrut. "Oh dear," she exclaimed. "I thought it was on Fridays that Jews don't eat shellfish."

I suggested she was confusing us with Catholics and meat. "But of course," she said. "How stupid of me. It's on your Sabbath that you don't eat seafood!"

Dining at official functions and private homes (particularly of Jewish residents) is a major part of an Israeli diplomat's social life. While serving temporarily for five months in Johannesburg, without my family, I dined out over 130 times, mostly in Jewish homes.

I arrived there a couple of weeks before Pessah and engaged a cook, a Basuto woman, who had never worked for Jews. I explained about changes to be made in the kitchen for the festival and described as best as I could the "large flat biscuit ribbed with brown spots" we eat during that week. "Yes, Master," she said, "here we call it 'matza'."

While expecting to encounter apartheid, I was especially shaken by one episode. White children were playing happily in a public park one day when a black man came by. Suddenly dozens of barking dogs converged on him from every direction and he

spun about trying to fend them off. I, together with another white man, shooed the dogs away, after which the black man was chased out of the park. During the entire episode not one child stopped playing or evinced the slightest interest in what was happening. It was for them a nonevent.

Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles in 1965 to assume my first posting overseas as consul, someone asked to see me on a very urgent matter. He introduced himself as a vice president of the Zionist Organization of America and proceeded to enumerate his many services to the Zionist cause. He therefore felt he was entitled to help from the State of Israel's representative.

I agreed. His problem? An Israeli was about to marry his daughter and intended to live here. I began to congratulate him on his contribution to Zionism when he interrupted me by saying: "I want you to call the young man and forbid him to settle in Israel with my daughter. It's dangerous over there and my wife and I will have no peace if she goes."

I had to muster every bit of self-control to refrain from showing him the door, but I made it clear that the prevention of aliyah was not the duty of an Israeli consul.

After a few minutes of heated exchanges he left angrily muttering about the ingratitude of Israelis to staunch Zionists. Needless to say I was not invited to the wedding.

AT THAT time the consulate in Los Angeles was the only one serving 11 western states. We tried to satisfy the many requests for speakers on the Middle East situation. One such appeal came from the Rotary Club of Med-

ford, Oregon. The wording included the phrase: "The speaker should be neither a Jew, nor a Zionist; only an Israeli."

Having once served as president of the Jerusalem Rotary Club I decided to be the speaker. I opened my address as follows: "Once upon a time there was a Jew, a Zionist and an Israeli - here I am."

Trying to do the right thing vis-à-vis the Jewish community isn't always easy. I was the chargé d'affaires at the embassy in Ottawa during Charles de Gaulle's first visit to Canada. He arrived on the second day of Pessah: a restricted *hag* day for the Diaspora, but for Israelis a free, intermediate day.

I had to decide: should I drive to the airport with other diplomats and be seen on TV and risk offending members of the com-

munity? I decided against it. The next day there were many irate phone calls deploring my nonappearance. The Jewish community, they said, would have overlooked my desecrating the holiday because of the importance of the occasion for Israel-French relations and the reputation of the community.

Having been granted this "hechsher" I accepted de Gaulle's invitation to lunch on the eighth day of Pessah - which is no longer a holiday for Israelis. As luck would have it the TV cameras focused on my table, and sure enough, the next day, many of the same irate callers phoned to berate me for being insensitive by eating *hametz* (non-Pessah food) in public!

The mayor of Sudbury in Northern Ontario invited me to officially open the 1961 fishing

season. I arrived by train early in the morning and was whisked onto a vessel and handed a fishing rod. During the next few hours people to the left and right of me caught fish, but not a single one bit my line.

As we sailed back, the organizer went around appropriating fish - including the biggest - because it was unbecoming for the guest of honor to be empty-handed when the media interviewed me.

The next day, back in Ottawa, we attended a reception at the Argentinian Embassy. The ambassador greeted me with a large smile, saying: "Congratulations on the big fish you caught. I was amazed. 'You know about it?'" "Well of course! The whole world is excited about it."

Then he added: "I hope Eichmann gets what he deserves."

That was, of course, some time before it became known where Eichmann was captured.

THE QUEEN of England invites all the ambassadors and a number of diplomats to an annual ball held at Buckingham Palace. At the ball, each ambassador is permitted to introduce a number of his staff to the queen and her family.

In 1965 our ambassador, Aharon Remez, chose an attaché and myself, plus our wives, to be introduced. The queen and her party exchanged pleasantries with the diplomats lined up for the inspection.

Bringing up the rear was her husband, Prince Philip. "Israel, eh?" he said. "Of course, you all come from somewhere else, don't you?"

"I was born in Tel Aviv," said

the ambassador. "And I in Petah Tikva," said the attaché. I said I was born in Jerusalem.

The prince looking puzzled, walked away and then returned. "And where were you born?" he asked Rita Remez. "Chicago," she answered. "And you?" "Warsaw," answered the attaché's wife. "Paris," my wife replied. "Ah," said the prince happily. "I knew I wasn't all that wrong."

The morning the news broke that we had spirited out our naval vessels from the harbor in Cherbourg, France, I received a call: "I'm serving rear admiral in Her Majesty's Navy. For obvious reasons I cannot reveal my name but I felt I had to salute your brilliant navy for displaying the Nelson touch."

IN THE summer of 1966 I flew from London to Lisbon to replace the consul-general. The president of the small Jewish community invited me one Shabbat to join him for lunch after the synagogue service and then to watch on TV the Portugal-North Korea World Cup game.

Just before the meal began, the community's secretary came and spoke to the president. They acquainted me with the problem. The referee in the match was an Israeli. Should Portugal lose the match and the referee be blamed, life for the Jewish community would become difficult, if not dangerous.

Would I phone our ambassador in London and get him to replace the referee? In rejecting the idea, I tried to reassure them that Portugal, being the better team, was bound to win. Well, 40 minutes into the game, Portugal was down 3-0. From the faces of my hosts and guests, I envisaged them rushing to pack their suitcases. I did my best to inject a note of optimism saying, without really believing it, that Portugal could still do well.

Sure enough they pulled back to 3-3. Then the referee awarded Portugal a penalty: 4-3. A few minutes later he awarded another penalty. Portugal won 5-3.

The relief and joy in the crowded room was intoxicating. Next day the papers claimed that the Israeli referee was the best ever seen on a football field.

So much for the World Cup and the Jewish Problem.

## Open to influence, but not conversion

THERE AND THEN  
BRAYA SHAPIRO

WHY would a minority staunchly defend its identity while genuinely attempting to integrate into the mainstream?

Prof. Reuven (Robert) Bonfil of the Hebrew University discusses the matter in *Bemera K'sufa* ("As by a Mirror," Zalm Shazar Center, 248 pp.), by examining the fate of the Jews during the Italian Renaissance.

In many ways the Jews looked up to the Gentiles. As in a mirror, they wished to see the qualities they admired. But they refused to take the fatal step, that of conversion, which would have freed them from persecution.

Never in the 2,000 years of Dispersion was the Jewish existence "normal," Bonfil says. The Jews were treated as an anomaly. This diaspora is an interesting phenomenon, open to various interpretations and judgments.

Bonfil asks whether the anomalous life was inevitable, whether it was worthwhile and legitimate. Either way, on the whole, the Jews preferred to live under the threat of repression than to terminate their separate identity.

The Italy of the Renaissance was an insecure place to live, not only for Jews. The local wars were waged mostly by mercenaries, and Jews did not take part in them; but they depended very much on the local chiefs and their finances.

Jews, who were reputed to be usurers or banking manipulators, were considered an evil necessary only in certain circumstances. For instance, pope Pius V was asked to allow the settling "of the Jews and courtisans" in his domain to ensure a degree of filth on this earth, "so that the Savior might need to come."

This was the scene to which Jewish refugees expelled from various countries drifted in search of asylum. Though they came from many parts of Europe, including Germany, France and even Poland, they hailed mainly from Spain and Portugal.

The Sephardi immigrants, though numerous at first, did not stay long. Bonfil suggests that the atmosphere in Italy reminded them of their experiences in their native lands. They preferred, therefore, to try their chances, in that "El Dorado" of the period,

the Turkish empire. The French and German refugees, who were particularly miserable, and mostly very poor, took root where they could.

Toward the end of the Renaissance period, few if any Jews remained south of Rome. Spreading northwards, they negotiated contracts with local *condottieri* (rulers), who allowed them to stay for a few years, if they paid exorbitant bribes for the privilege.

But the Damoclean sword of expulsion was always present. While writers such as Simone Luzzatto argued that a Jewish presence was beneficial to local life, nothing could dissuade the monastic orders from their vicious propaganda. The monks insisted that usurious Jews were responsible for their Christian neighbors' misery.

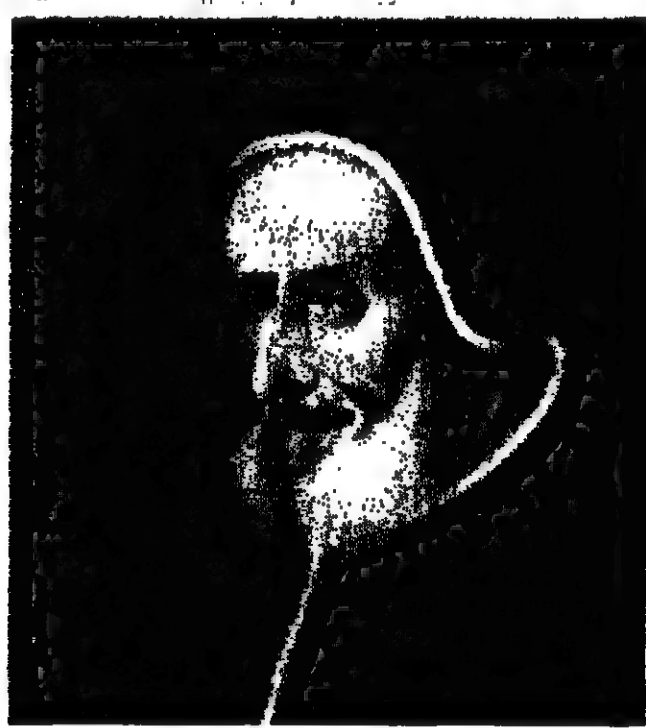
In fact, Bonfil remarks, usury was a minor part of "Jewish" professions. And it was exercised largely under the pressure of the authorities, sometimes as a cover for Christian money handlers, whose rates of interest were much higher than those of their Jewish partners.

Jews were very efficient artisans. But, fearing competition, the artisans' guilds of Milan and Genoa did not want to open their cities to Jews.

The Jews were also famous for their doctors: Many a pope hired Jewish physicians, not only because of their skills, but because they were notably cheaper than their Gentile counterparts.

Contacts between Jews and Gentiles were generally limited to daily professional encounters - an exclusive elite excepted. A small Jewish intellectual class did emerge. They dressed like Christians, they loved music and books, and some even went hunting. But their inability to penetrate the Christian inner circle made them feel uneasy.

Rabbinical treatises were often influenced by Christian compositions. An admirer of Dante wrote a Hebrew poem inspired by the *Comedy*, but centered it on the *Mikdash Me'at*, the synagogue. But there were those who overstepped the bounds of contemporary Jewish conventions. Immanuel Haromi, for example, was banned by the pious Rabbi Yosef Caro of Safed.



Pope Pius V: Was asked to allow Jews and courtisans to settle in his domain, to ensure the coming of the Savior.

A Christian humanist did not shed his identity when he distanced himself from religion; the Jew did. But it was not religion which stopped the Jew from crossing the lines into the outer world; nor was it the renewed outburst of antisemitism. The Jew endeavored to become integrated into the majority; but he saw no reason to shed his Judaism in the process.

## Finding the best vet for your animal

HEADS 'N' TAILS  
DYORA BEN SHAUL

IF you have an animal companion, you'll need a competent veterinarian - even if you're so lucky as to need only routine immunizations, dental care and nutritional advice.

In a small town or isolated location you may not have much choice. But if you live in a city, how do you choose from among the licensed veterinarians the one who is best for you and your companion?

Dr. Ray Markus, a practicing veterinarian and past president of the Israel Companion Animals Veterinary Association, gives the following advice:

Ask people who have used the services of veterinarians in your area. Your basic questions should include: Location. Is the service easily reachable by foot or bus, or is reasonable parking space available? If an animal has to be carried, or if you are handicapped or old, is it possible to get there with your animal?

Service. Does the veterinarian make house calls in emergencies? And, can he or she be reached by telephone most of the time? All day, nights, weekends or holidays? If not, is alternative assistance provided?

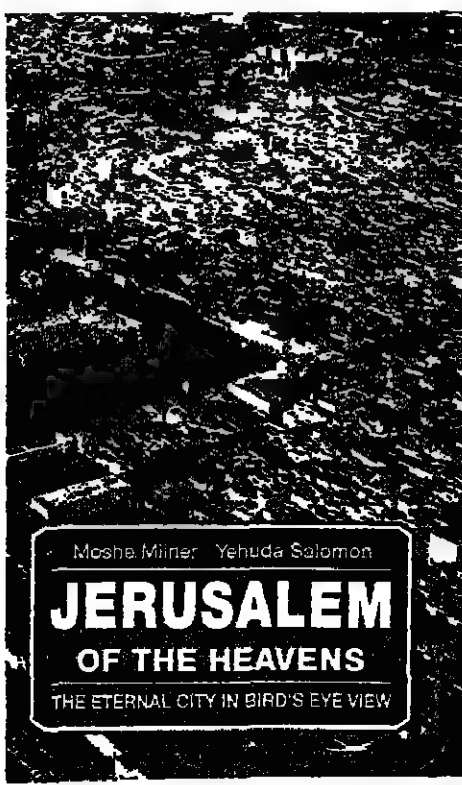
Is the service equipped for rou-

low-up notices or reminders of immunizations?

Attitudes. Does the veterinarian and his or her assistants show a real interest in your pet or is it "just another job" to be done? Do they take the time needed to explain procedures and to advise about home care? Are you comfortable with them?

None of these by itself is a deciding factor, but together they can help you make the right choice for you and your companion.

## The Eternal City in Bird's Eye View



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# Blackburn extends lead with 2-1 win over Chelsea

LONDON (Reuters) - Blackburn diverted the spotlight away from English soccer's match-rigging allegations and back to the Premier League title race as they carved a six-point lead over champions Manchester United yesterday.

England marksman Alan Shearer hit his 100th league goal to spur Blackburn to a 2-1 home win against Chelsea, which had seized a third-minute lead through striker Mark Stein.

Blackburn now has 76 points from 34 games and second-placed Manchester United, on 70 from 33 matches, plays at Liverpool today.

Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, and striker John Fashanu, who were questioned by police about bribery and match-fixing allegations and then released on bail without being charged on Wednesday, were not in the day's action.

Southampton put Zimbabwean international Grobbelaar on the substitutes' bench at Nottingham Forest, a move that Segers's club Wimbledon also opted for in its home game against Crystal Palace.

Fashanu was already ruled out of Aston Villa's clash at home with West Ham because of an injured right knee.

Blackburn, which gave full-back Jeff Kenna his debut after a £1.5 midweek transfer from Southampton, was jolted by Stein's early strike.

Chelsea won a free kick from which striker Paul Furlong headed into the penalty area for the finishing touch to be applied by Stein, who played a key role in putting Chelsea into the European Cup Winners' Cup semifinals on Tuesday.

Blackburn equalized after 16 minutes with Shearer's landmark goal. Graeme Le Saux sent the ball over the top and the England striker produced an explosive and clinical finish.

Shearer has now scored 77 goals in 95 games for Blackburn.

Shearer turned provider for Blackburn's second goal. His perfect pass found skipper Tim Sherwood as he made a run from mid-field and went on to produce a strike of which Shearer himself would have been proud.

Grobbelaar, who along with Segers and Fashanu has protested his innocence to accusations of match-fixing, was an anxious and worried spectator as Southampton's relegation fears mounted with a 3-0 defeat at Forest.

The Zimbabwean's entry to the arena to take his place on the substitutes' bench was not auspicious - he walked to the wrong dug-out.

While Grobbelaar's replacement Dave Beasant could do nothing about the first two goals, he will want to forget the third - Dutch forward Bryan Roy's second - which slipped through his hands.

Roy had put Forest ahead after 38 minutes and striker Stan Collymore extended their advantage in the 64th minute. Roy's second goal after 81 minutes sealed a win which improved Forest's hopes of European competition next season.

Forest is fourth while Southampton is 20th in the 22-team league from which the bottom four are relegated this season.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 0, West Ham 2; Blackburn 2, Chelsea 1; Leeds 3, Coventry 0; Manchester City 3, Sheffield Wednesday 2; Nottingham Forest 3, Southampton 0; Queens Park Rangers 1, Everton 3; Tottenham 1, Leicester 0; Wimbledon 2, Crystal Palace 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	34	23	7	4	70	29	76
Man Utd	33	21	7	5	63	22	70
Newcastle	33	17	9	7	53	32	60
Not Forest	34	16	9	9	53	38	57
Liverpool	33	15	9	9	52	34	54
Sheff Wed	33	10	10	13	42	51	40
Tottenham	33	14	9	10	42	51	40
Wimbledon	33	13	8	14	39	54	45
Sheff Wed	33	12	10	11	45	43	46
Coventry	33	10	13	12	37	53	43
QPR	31	11	8	12	49	50	41
Manchester City	33	10	11	12	43	50	41
Arsenal	33	10	10	13	38	40	40
Chelsea	33	10	10	13	40	45	40
Aston Villa	34	9	12	15	46	48	39
Leeds	33	9	12	12	30	38	39
Everton	34	9	12	13	37	46	39
West Ham	34	7	12	15	37	57	37
Crystal Palace	32	8	10	14	23	34	34
Southampton	31	8	10	15	41	50	33
Wolves	32	8	11	15	32	52	32
Leicester	34	4	9	21	38	66	21

DIVISION ONE: Barnsley 3, Port Vale 1; Bristol City 1, Burnley 1; Luton 2, Tranmere 0; Middlesbrough 2, Derby 4; Portsmouth 1, Southend 1; Sheffield United 2, Stoke 4; Reading 1, Wolves 1; Watford 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tranmere	37	19	8	10	57	40	65
Middlesbrough	37	18	9	10	52	42	60
Sheff United	37	18	12	7	56	40	60
Wolverhampton	36	18	8	11	59	46	60
Sutton	37	17	10	10	52	59	59
Barnsley	35	16	8	11	50	41	58
Derby	36	16	10	11	49	57	58
Luton	34	14	13	7	50	30	51
Watford	35	13	12	10	39	35	51
Grimby	36	12	13	11	51	49	48
Millwall	36	12	12	11	47	44	48
Sheff Wed	35	12	9	14	47	61	45
Oldham	36	11	13	14	47	48	44
Portsmouth	37	11	11	15	52	53	44
West Brom	36	12	8	16	34	44	44
Port Vale	36	11	10	14	43	48	43
Southend	37	12	7	18	39	44	43
Sheff Wed	36	10	10	14	33	34	42
Stoke	34	10	12	12	33	38	42
Bristol City	37	10	9	18	38	52	39
Sheff Wed	34	9	10	15	38	51	39
Not County	36	8	9	19	38	51	35

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool 0, Bristol Rovers 2; Chester 1, Cambridge United 3; Leyton Orient 0, Huddersfield 2; Oxford 0, 1, Bradford 0, Peterborough 0, 0, Bourne 0, Plymouth 2, Hull 1; Rotherham 0, Brentford 2; Stockport 3, Crewe 1; Wrexham 0, Cardiff 3; Wycombe 0, Birmingham 3; York 1, Brighton 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	36	21	6	9	67	39	69
Huddersfield	37	19	12	6	67	39	69
Oxford United	36	19	9	8	59	41	65
Birmingham	36	18	8	9	62	38	63
Sheff Wed	36	18	12	6	61	38	63
Bristol Rovers	34	18	11	7	56	32	60
Blackpool	36	17	12	7	55	34	59
York	36	17	11	8	54	34	59
Hull	34	16	10	8	55	42	58
Swindon	35	14	14	7	47	35	56
Wycombe	34	16	11	8	44	31	56
Bradford	36	15	9	11	49	48	54
Stockport	36	15	9	11	48	49	54
Wrexham	35	15	11	11	55	50	50
Brighton	35	11	12	13	41	40	45
Peterborough	36	10	14	11	44	58	44
Sheff Wed	36	10	12	14	46	48	42
Rotherham	36	10	12	14	44	48	42
Cambridge Utd	37	8	12	17	48	63	36
Plymouth	34	8	9	20	34	87	33
Barnsley	37	11	10	16	59	59	33
Cardiff	36	8	7	21	37	69	29
Leyton Orient	36	8	7	21	37	69	29
Sheff Wed	36	4	8	24	30	73	20

DIVISION THREE: Barnet 4, Hartlepool 0; Carlisle 2, Walsall 1; Chesterfield 0, Wigan 0; Colchester 3, Exeter 1; Darlington 0, Mansfield 0; Fulham 0, Doncaster 3; Gillingham 2, Scamthorpe 2; Hereford 2, Scarborough 1; Lincoln 2, Rochdale 2; Northampton 2, Torquay 0; Preston 5, Bury 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	37	17	10	9	50	31	71
Sheff Wed	31	17	8	11	57	33	59
Mansfield	31	17	8	11	57	33	59
Bury	31	16	7	14	48	28	55
Preston	35	15	7	13	48	35	53
Doncaster	34	14	10	9	43	27	52
Colchester	34	14	8	12	44	42	50
Scamthorpe	33	14	8	13	54	47	48
Barnet	33	14	8	12	41	45	48
Fulham	34	11	13	14	48	46	46
Torquay	34	11	13	14	48	46	46
Lincoln	32	11	8	13	41	48	41
Wigan	31	11	7	13	44	47	40
Rochdale	33	10	7	16	38	43	37
Darlington	33	9	10	16	38	51	35
Hereford	33	9	10	16	38	51	35
Northampton	32	8	9	18	30	62	32
Exeter	32	8	9	18	30	62	32
Gillingham	32	7	10	17	35	50	29
Hartlepool	32	7	10	17	35	50	29
Scarborough	32	6	8	19	34	56	25

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Aberdeen 0, Raith Rovers 0; Celtic vs. Partick Thistle postponed (Fraserburgh field); Falkirk vs. Kilmarnock postponed (Fraserburgh field); Hearts 2, Rangers 1; Motherwell 2, Dundee United 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	29	18	6	5	50	28	59
Motherwell	27	11	11	5	42	28	44
Hearts	27	11	11	5	42	28	44
Celtic	27	7	18	4	29	24	37
Partick	27	10	6	11	35	37	36
Kilmarnock	26	8	10	8	38	42	33
Falkirk	26	7	11	10	35	42	32
Dundee United	26	8	12	12	33	43	32
Aberdeen	26	11	12	3	32	38	29
Partick	26	8	6	12	32	37	27



CONDUCT UNBECOMING - An English hooligan is restrained by German police after rowdy behavior. (Reuters)



ROYALTY - Despite his difficulties, Bruce Grobbelaar is still treated as a national hero in his native Zimbabwe. (AP)

## English soccer reveals its ugly face

LONDON (AP) - A list of the scandals which have rocked English soccer this season:

November 9: The Sun newspaper publishes allegations that Southampton and former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar received bribes to fix matches. Grobbelaar denies the charges.

After the allegations were published, the FA charged him with misconduct but allowed him to continue playing while police pursued their investigation. He has also continued to play in international matches for Zimbabwe, where he is a national hero.

The match-rigging allegations are the most serious in England since the 1960s, when England international stars Peter Swan and Tony Kay were among 10 players jailed and banned from the game.

November 25: Arsenal striker Paul Merson

admits to cocaine, alcohol and gambling addiction. He spends six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic before returning to action in early February.

January 25: Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona launches a two-footed, kung-fu-style assault on a taunting Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park in London. He is later banned by the FA through September and charged with assault by police.

February 8: Chelsea fans invade the field after their team loses to London rival Millwall in the FA Cup at Stamford Bridge. Mounted police separate brawling fans. Nineteen fans are charged and 11 police injured in the melee.

February 15: England's exhibition match against Ireland at Dublin's Lansdowne Road is abandoned in the first half after

English hooligans tear up their seats and throw them at Irish spectators below.

February 16: Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones is dropped by his club for three games after biting a reporter's nose in a Dublin hotel bar.

February 21: George Graham is fired as Arsenal manager after a Premier League inquiry alleges he received £425,000 in under-the-table transfer payments. He denies any wrongdoing but is charged with misconduct by the FA on March 7.

February 28: Belgian police deport more than 800 English fans before and after Chelsea's European Cup Winners Cup match in Bruges.

March 3: It is confirmed that Crystal Palace star striker Chris Armstrong tested positive for cannabis. He is dropped by the club for four games.

March 6: Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince is charged with common assault by police for severely attacking a Crystal Palace fan during the same incident that led to Cantona's end-of-season ban. Both he and Cantona are scheduled to appear in court this week.

March 13: Chelsea captain and midfielder Dennis Wise is sentenced to three months in jail for assaulting a 65-year-old taxi driver. He is released on bail pending an appeal.

March 14: Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers and striker John Fashanu are among six people arrested in connection with match-fixing allegations.

The three are released on bail as the investigations continue. News reports say that as many as six other Premier League players may be implicated.

## US fans have forgiven NHL bosses, players

But Canadian teams struggle to keep up with last season's figures

NEW YORK (AP) - With the lockout-shortened season bringing a playoff-style atmosphere to every game, ice hockey fans across the US have returned to National Hockey League arenas and tuned in to televised games as if all were forgiven.

If there's any significant backlash among fans from the NHL's labor strife, it appears to be in Canada.

Despite the bitter, three-month lockout, average attendance at the midway point of the season is up 200 fans per game over last year, according to the 26 teams.

And the ESPN cable television channel says its NHL broadcasts are reaching about 200,000 more households across the US.

"I said in December that if we can get back this year, we won't miss a beat in terms of fan exposure," said Chicago Blackhawks coach Darryl Sutter. "I always related it to somebody taking the toy and then getting it back again - you still like the toy."

Or in the Blackhawks' case, love. The new United Center was sold out for all but one of Chicago's first eight games at the 20,536-seat arena, which has about 3,000 more seats than the old Chicago Stadium. On February 23, a club-record 22,073 squeezed in to watch the Blackhawks play Detroit.

The Blackhawks had very few requests for season ticket refunds due to the lockout because fans didn't want to lose their seats. Public relations director Jim DeMaria said there's a waiting list of between 500 and 1,000 for season tickets.

The St. Louis Blues have had five of their six largest crowds in franchise history at the new Kiel Center. After 11 dates, the Blues were averaging 18,843 - the highest in team

history. Last season, the Blues averaged 17,561 at the old St. Louis Arena.

The Chicago and St. Louis situations are unique, of course, because of the new arenas, but US teams in general report attendance figures higher or similar to last season.

Three US-based teams have sold out every home game - the New York Rangers, the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and the San Jose Sharks - while only the Toronto Maple Leafs can make that claim in Canada.

Through 283 games this season, 4,391,703 fans passed through NHL turnstiles. Through 283 games last season, the figure was 4,335,474.

Blackhawks defenseman Steve Smith isn't surprised that most NHL cities have been drawing well despite the labor turmoil.

"I think the quality of play has been second to none," he said of the increased importance of games due to the shortened 48-game schedule. "One thing that both sides - players and management - have done is put a great product on the ice."

Smith, who played in Canada for 10 years, offered the following explanation for the poorer showing in that country:

"I think it's a different mentality in the US. People here understand. A lot of them are blue-collar union workers, they know a business is a business and that once a labor situation is settled, it is time to forgive and forget."

Despite the Maple Leafs' solid attendance, teams in Canada have played to only 88 percent capacity in the first half.

Even the Montreal Canadiens have not had a sellout this season - an amazing statistic considering that this is their last season at the hallowed Forum. Shortly before the midway

mark, the Canadiens were averaging 16,628 at the 17,959-capacity Forum, nearly 500 fewer than last season.

The smallest crowd of the year, 16,127, was on opening night, which one Montreal employee saw almost as a statement of protest.

In Vancouver, the Stanley Cup finalist Canucks were averaging only 13,184 at the 16,150-seat Pacific Coliseum, down about 2,000 from last year. One team official attributed this to a backlash from the lockout, a big raise in ticket prices, televised games and poor play by the team.

Even Canadian teams that are playing well haven't been successful at the gate. The Quebec Nordiques had been averaging 95 percent capacity the last six years. At the halfway mark of this season, they were at 91 percent, despite the best start in franchise history.

Two Canadian teams set franchise records for attendance lows - the Edmonton Oilers and the Ottawa Senators - while others in Canada continued to struggle.

The Senators, with the smallest arena in the NHL at 10,585 seats, also had the lowest attendance, averaging only 9,748. The Winnipeg Jets were the second-lowest, drawing only an average of 11,812 to their 15,393-seat arena.

But across the board, fans say the shortened schedule is more exciting because the games have been more meaningful.

"Halfway through a normal season, I get a little bored and then I get excited again around the playoffs," said Tom Richau, a carpenter who goes to about four Buffalo Sabres games per year. "Forty-eight games is enough for me. I'm into every game now. It's exciting."

## Bloom beats Erlich

HEATHER CHAT

GILAD Bloom yesterday defended his spot as Israel's No. 1 tennis player, thwarting an attempt to topple him by Eyal Erlich.

Playing in the final of the third leg of the Club Hotel Hilar satellite in Jaffa, third seed Bloom made amends for his poor performance in the two earlier rounds in Ashdod and Haifa.

The pressure was intense on both players who are fighting over the chance to represent Israel in singles play in next week's Davis Cup vs. against Norway in Oslo.

With Bloom and Erlich both demonstrating tennis of a high level, Bloom, ranked 204 in the IBM/ATP rankings, triumphed over Erlich (303) 6-0, 4-6, 7-6(2).

Bloom opened well, racing to an early lead over Erlich, top seed and the winner of the two previous stages of the satellite.

Bloom's experience eventually tipped the scales in the third set tiebreak with Erlich's weaziness creeping into his game.

After the game, Bloom was satisfied. "I played better than in the previous two stages, with a more aggressive and attacking style. I was also more relaxed and didn't drop one set before the final."

Israel's Davis Cup coach Dedi Ya'acov praised Bloom's performance.

"Gilad delivered more than in the previous stages. Each player lifted the other to achieve more, resulting in tennis of a high level."

On the choice of singles players against Norway, Ya'acov said, "The competition is keen among Bloom, Erlich and Eyal Ran. I don't envy Shlomo [Glickstein] in making the decision."

Ran, (232) is currently in Key Biscayne, Florida, where he was due to play Neville Godwin of South Africa in the first round last night after winning through three qualifying rounds.

In Friday's semifinals, Erlich defeated Milen Velov of Bulgaria 7-6(1), 3-6, 6-3 and Bloom dismissed seventh seed Giorgio Galimberti of Italy 7-6(4), 6-1.

Today the Masters tournament begins in Ramat Hasharon with Erlich and Bloom seeded first and second respectively.</



# Maccabi Tel Aviv reclaims the crown

DEREK FATTAL

THE tale of Round 23 of the National League ended with a surprise 1-0 victory for relegation-strugger Bnei Yehuda, and defeat for the champion Maccabi Tel Aviv at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan.

Betar's dream win marks a double this season for the side over Haifa. In the previous meeting the Betarists got the better of the Haifailes with an impressive 3-2 victory. Yaniv Abergil once again provided the magical touch in front of goal for Betar.

At the same venue some two hours earlier the fairy godmother waved her wand late in the game to give Maccabi Tel Aviv three points over neighbor Bnei Yehuda, despite a timid performance by the side craving Maccabi Haifa's title crown.

Tel Aviv's victory returns the club to top position, three points ahead of the Haifailes, and marks a dent in the northerner's bid to retain the championship.

Third-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva fell 1-0 to a much-improved Maccabi Netanya, and now lies eight points adrift of the leader.

Netanya's victory together with a win for bottom-placed Maccabi Herzliya means a shift in positions at the foot of the division.

The two teams move ahead of Ironi Ashdod. For the Herzliyans this is their first time in five months they do not occupy last place.

While the race at the top remains a heated contest between the leading pair, the battle to escape relegation, with eight matches left affects over half the league. Any of nine teams from 8th-placed Hapoel Haifa with 27 points, down to Ashdod with 21 points, face the threat of second division football next season.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 2, Bnei Yehuda 0. Three points is what the Tel Avivians needed to keep them in the championship fight.

A down first half suggested that this mini-derby would end scoreless like the Maccabi-Hapoel meeting last week. The best scoring chance in the opening period fell to Nir Sevilia who had a shot cleared off the line.

Maccabi received an injection of fresh blood with coach Avraham Grant bringing on substitutes Yudi Shukanov and Victor Belkin after the interval.

The significant action was reserved for the final eight minutes of play. In the 82nd minute Avi Nimni was tripped right on the edge of the area and was awarded a controversial penalty, to the outrage of the Bnei Yehuda players and bench.

Once order was restored Nimni stroked his penalty beyond the reach of Yehuda's goalkeeper. The goal was a controversial one, but it was a goal. Strasser to edge Maccabi ahead amid howls of protest from Bnei Yehuda and Haifa fans amongst the doubleheader crowd at the National Stadium.

Six minutes later victory was assured with Shukanov edging the ball into goal after a hard shot from Nimni rebounded into his path.

Betar Tel Aviv 1, Mac Haifa 0. Betar played some brilliant defensive soccer mixed with lightning breaks to cause another surprising upset over Maccabi.

Itzik Kornfein put on a stupendous performance between the posts, while Alexei Shigalov marshaled the Betar defense into an impenetrable concrete bunker which stymied most of Haifa's attempts on goal.

In the 36th minute Haim Revivo almost stole through, but was denied by the acrobatic Kornfein. Meanwhile Eyal Berkovitz was rendered impotent in midfield by close man-to-man marking.

The killer goal came in the 56th minute from a Ronen Schweig cross floated onto the head of Moshe Eisenberg. Rafi Cohen could only parry the ball down, and Abergil breezed in ahead of the Haifa back line and stabbed in the winner.

Mac Herzliya 3, Bet Jerusalem 1. Relegation-candidate Herzliya surprised Betar with the quality and purpose of its soccer, and quickly wiped out the memory of Jerusalem's 8-1 victory in the clubs' first meeting this season.

Ofir Mizrahi was in excellent form, laying on Yaniv Cohen's opening goal, with a pinpoint pass that dissected the Betar defense in the 9th minute.

A lethal burst of fire in the opening minutes of the second half killed off Betar's chances of taking any points back to the capital. Guy Gali scored with a rare header in the 52nd minute, and Yossi Medar hit in two minutes later.

Stefan Cheloi's 79th-minute reply for the Betarists was a case of too little too late.

Hapoel Beersheba 2, Hapoel Tel Aviv 1. Beersheba's Sergei Gossyev broke the deadlock late in the first half with a highly speculative long-range shot that the visitor's goalkeeper Jaroslav Baku failed to cut out.

Seven minutes after the resumption Victor Maroz increased Beersheba's lead from a free kick outside the area. Maroz's shot took a deflection from a player in Tel Aviv's defensive wall to leave Baku red-faced again.

Mac Netanya 1, Hapoel Petah Tikva 0. This match marked the return of veteran Netanya coach Samuel Pearlman to the club he led in the glory days of the '70s and briefly last season.

The appointment worked wonders on the Netanya players, to the joy of the partisan 4,000-plus crowd. The Netanyans fought for every ball and fully deserved the three points.

Hapoel Be'er Sheva 0, Hapoel Haifa 3. This victory continues the Haifa revival under the stewardship of Victor Hadad and marks ten goals with no reply in favor of the visitors, in the two meetings between the teams this term.

Bnei Yehuda's problems began in the third minute, as Danny Niron thumped the ball into goal with the host defense all over the place after a well-fought corner kick.

Niron got himself onto the score sheet again, 12 minutes after the resumption. In the 62nd minute teammate Tal Benin left the crowd dumb-struck with an exact-like shot that found goal from over 30 meters out.

Mac PT 2, Ironi Rishon LeZion 2. A topy-turvy battle that was full of incident saw Rishon reduced to ten men

due to the dismissal of Eliezer Dekel in the 11th minute for a second yellow card. Five minutes later the ten-man crew took the lead through Dudi Hefer, only for Guy Yizhak to level for the hosts 15 minutes later.

Rishon's Meir Azran had a 40th-minute penalty saved by Golan Malul, but took the lead again through Sharon Maccani midway through the second half.

Five minutes later it was the turn of Maccabi's Ran Ben-Shimon to be denied from the penalty spot by Rishon's Savit Alimelech. Nevertheless, Petah Tikva managed to share the spoils through a late equalizer from Tal Benin.

This draw pushed the Ashdodians down into bottom spot. A drive crisply struck by Shai Holtzman beat national keeper Bonnie Ginsburg in the 33rd minute.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Mac Netanya (11)	Hapoel PT (10)
Mac Herzliya (12)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Haifa (13)	Hapoel Haifa (11)
Mac Tel Aviv (14)	Hapoel Petah Tikva (10)
Mac Be'er Sheva (15)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Rishon LeZion (16)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Ashdod (17)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Herzliya (18)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Be'er Sheva (19)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Rishon LeZion (20)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Ashdod (21)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Herzliya (22)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Be'er Sheva (23)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Rishon LeZion (24)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Ashdod (25)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Herzliya (26)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Be'er Sheva (27)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Rishon LeZion (28)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Ashdod (29)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)
Mac Herzliya (30)	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (11)

After 22 rounds

Mac. Haifa	12	8	4	48	26	42
Hap. Patah Tikva	11	5	6	33	24	38
Hap. Beersheva	10	7	5	35	25	37
Hap. Tel Aviv	7	11	4	30	25	32
Bel. Jerusalem	8	5	8	30	30	30
Bnei Yehuda	7	7	8	34	34	27
Hap. Haifa	6	7	9	34	27	37
Rishon LeZion	6	9	7	27	27	37
Hap. Bet She'an	6	9	7	23	35	27
Zatrimon Holon	7	5	10	31	35	28
Mac. Patah Tikva	5	10	7	28	32	25
Bel. Tel Aviv	7	3	12	27	43	24
Mac. Netanya	6	5	11	27	41	23
Mac. Herzliya	5	7	10	24	41	22
Ironi Ashdod	4	9	8	27	37	21











# IDF will drop criminal charges against Nahal pot smokers

THE IDF has agreed to a compromise whereby the Nahal soldiers arrested last month for smoking marijuana will not face criminal charges, but will be court-martialed by the army on lesser charges, the High Court of Justice was told Friday by the State Attorney's Office.

The Judge Advocate-General also said it would consider releasing the eight members of the Ofakim-based Nahal unit from prison before the end of legal proceedings. All eight were remanded a month ago by Jaffa Military Court.

The JAG agreed to the compromise following a petition by two of the soldiers, Reuven Am-salem and Hanoch Paz, who want to be tried in Beersheba Magistrate's Court, where they can avoid being sentenced and earning a criminal record. The Beersheba court would have also been likely to release the soldiers from jail.

They also argued that the army has no right to try them, since they were treated like civilians in Ofakim, where they were sponsored by Meretz.

Moreover, although they were

formally drafted, they had not undergone basic training and were forbidden to wear their uniforms. Their stipends were paid by the Education Ministry.

The army argued that the minute the Nahal group registered at the IDF induction center in Tel Hashomer, they were soldiers in every way. It also noted that the lack of army supervision did not excuse the drug use by the eight Nahal members.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Dalia Dorner, and Mishael Cheshin had noted during a hearing on Thursday that the army had the

authority to try the Nahal soldiers.

However, given the circumstances, the justices said it might be better to try the youths in a civilian court.

Dorner had noted that it was a "borderline" case whether the army could try the soldiers and asked the state's attorney to consider transferring the case to the civilian courts.

The judges also recommended that the sides try to reach a compromise in the matter whereby the Nahal soldiers could avoid a criminal record. (Tim)

## Bereaved father accuses IDF of ignoring son's cancer

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE father of a 20-year-old, who died last week of cancer that apparently developed during his IDF service, charged that his son died because of the army's negligence.

Zion Peretz of Beersheba demanded a full investigation of the circumstances of the death of his son, Yehuda. He also asked that Yehuda, who had been discharged from the army before his condition was diagnosed, be declared an army casualty and be buried in a military cemetery.

The younger Peretz, who died Thursday, was buried Friday in the Beersheba Cemetery.

"My pain is great, because I lost a son for lack of treatment and because his complaints weren't taken seriously. The way the army related to him was beneath contempt," said Peretz.

Yehuda Peretz was discharged from the army last September, after being declared unfit for army service. The discharge followed several stints in army prisons, to which he was sent for refusing to follow orders.

"Several months after he was drafted in October 1993, he began to

experience serious chest pains. He complained frequently, both on the base and during his terms in prison, but a chest X-ray and a bone scan turned up nothing. According to his father, he was never examined in a hospital.

After his last stint in prison, which lasted 42 days and during which he continued to complain of chest pains, he was discharged. Only days afterward, he was admitted to Beilinson Hospital, where doctors discovered a cancerous growth.

His parents said that a few days after he was hospitalized, they sent a letter detailing their complaints to the IDF Ombudsman, but that they heard nothing until Israel Radio reporter Carmela Menashe began investigating.

On the day Yehuda died, they said, medical officers arrived at Beilinson asking for his medical charts. "If my son had gotten a tenth of the treatment from the army that he received in Beilinson, I have no doubt we would not have buried him Friday," the father said.

The IDF Spokesman said the treatment of Peretz before his discharge is being investigated.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Postal rates up

Postal rates rise by an average of 8 percent today, following approval by the Knesset Economics Committee last week.

Among the new rates: NIS 1 for a postcard or regular letter up to 20 grams (instead of 90 agorot); NIS 1.10 for an overseas airmail (NIS 1.05); NIS 8.10 for sending a regular package up to 1 kilo inside Israel (NIS 7.70); NIS 3.40 for registering a piece of mail (NIS 3.20); NIS 1.80 for airmail letters to the US up to 20 grams (NIS 1.70); NIS 1.50 for airmail letters to Europe up to 20 grams (NIS 1.40); and NIS 16.50 for a domestic telegram (NIS 15.40).

### Teachers strike Jerusalem high schools

Jerusalem high schools will be closed this morning following a decision by teachers in the capital to go on strike. The teachers are protesting against the severance terms offered to six teachers who were recently dismissed.

A municipal spokesman said teachers who are forced to leave their jobs receive the usual severance pay. The strike does not affect private schools.

### Bomb threats disrupt Purim in Ukraine

KIEV (Reuters) - Bomb threats disrupted celebrations of Purim in the Ukrainian city of Odessa on Friday, police said.

Police evacuated about 1,000 people, mostly children in costumes, from the Black Sea port's Ukrainian Theatre after a caller said a bomb had been planted there. Nothing was found and the festivities resumed. A second caller later said a bomb had been placed in the offices of the Jewish Agency, but a search also turned up nothing.

### Clinton orders \$5 million for PLO police

President Bill Clinton on Friday ordered the US Defense Department to supply up to \$5 million worth of vehicles and spare parts to the Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip. Clinton directed that 200 vehicles be transported to Israel for release to the Palestinians. (Reuters)



Tel Aviv art dealer Marc Sibon appears Friday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded on suspicion of art theft for another 10 days. (Isaac Harari)

## Experts check authenticity of stolen Paris 'masterpieces'

THE Israel Police has matched eight of 14 stolen paintings which may be originals by Van Gogh, Picasso, Degas, and others to a Paris art gallery which was robbed last month, a police spokesman said Friday.

During a routine search of a suspicious vehicle in Jerusalem last Saturday, police found a number of paintings in the car of Marc Sibon, 53, a Tel Aviv art dealer, and later discovered more paintings in the home of a French tourist, Muriel Ben-Harush, who was a passenger in the car.

### News agencies

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said on Friday that at least two of the paintings have been confirmed as fakes, but he would not specify which ones. The rest are still being examined by experts at the Israel Museum.

If authenticated, the most valuable could be an oil painting by Pablo Picasso, valued at a minimum

\$1 million, according to Doron Loria, a curator at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

Bar-Chen said at least eight of the paintings were definitely stolen from the French gallery, which was robbed on February 21.

The suspects were brought before the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday, when Sibon was remanded for another 10 days. Ben-Harush was remanded for 15 days' house arrest on NIS 50,000 bail. Her passport was confiscated and her phone disconnected.

## Cabinet to wind up debate on distribution of free vouchers

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet today will conclude its debate on Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's proposal to distribute free vouchers to the public for the purchase of state-owned companies and banks.

Shohat asked the cabinet last week to give him the authority to establish an administrative body to prepare and implement the program. In addition, he will request the cabinet to task an inter-ministerial committee made up of representatives from the Treasury, the Justice Ministry, the Securities Authority, the Bank of Israel, and the Supervisor of Monopolies to report the required legislation to the cabinet legislative committee within a month.

The cabinet was presented the proposal only last week, without any time for the ministers to comment

on it, as a discussion on security issues took up most of that meeting.

A panel headed by Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet to study the possibility of distributing shares of state-owned companies among the public presented Shohat his recommendations at the end of last month.

Under the plan, the government will distribute free vouchers worth between NIS 400 and NIS 600 that could be sold on the stock market or be used to purchase a package of shares of firms that are being privatized.

Everyone included in the voter registry, or about 3 million citizens, would be entitled to receive the free vouchers for the purchase of a package of about NIS 2,000 worth of shares.

## Palestinian Police seizes opium worth over NIS 3m.

THE Palestinian Police in Gaza has confiscated over NIS 3 million worth of opium, a police official said yesterday.

The official said police on Friday found over 4,000 opium poppy plants on a farm in Khan Yunis. Over 3,000 of the plants were ready for sale, he added.

The overall bust was estimated to be worth some NIS 4.5m., the official said.

Five members of the family that owns the farm have been arrested, but the police foresee problems in bringing the men to court, since Gaza has no laboratory to scientifically confirm the plants were opium.

The police official added that there is some suspicion the opium farm had an Israeli partner.

However, the Israel Police has not yet been notified since the Gaza police are still in the preliminary stages of investigation, he said.

In a separate bust, police found 255 marijuana plants on a different Khan Yunis farm. The farmer had been arrested previously and released when police could not present the court with official laboratory findings, the police official said. (AP)

## Israel Festival to offer 65 artists and companies

### Wide variety of tastes, from Covent Garden 'Carmen' to Joe Cocker

CARMEN from the Covent Garden Opera, more opera from the Kirov, theater from Peter Brook, music from the Guarneri Quartet and dance from Ohad Naharin are among the highlights of this year's Israel Festival, to be held in Jerusalem from May 20 to June 10.

"This year's program has a wide variety of events with broad audience appeal, together with productions representing the cutting edge of the contemporary in the performing arts," said festival artistic director Micha Lewensohn.

The Barshava Dance Company (BTC) will officially open the festival with *Zina*, a new work by BTC

artistic director Ohad Naharin. *Carmen*, starring Maria Ewing in the title role, is staged by Nuria Espert and the choreographer for the huge production, which has a 200-plus cast, is Christina Hoyos. Richard Strauss' *Salome* will be performed in concert by St. Petersburg's Kirov Opera soloists and orchestra conducted by Valery Gergayev.

Peter Brook brings his International Theater with *The Man Who...*, his new production based on the book *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by neurologist Oliver

Sacks. From Moscow's famed Mali Theater comes *Gaudamus*, a social satire set in the pre-glasnost USSR, directed by Lev Dodin.

Other major events include the first Israel appearance of US choreographer Trisha Brown and her company; an international group of dancers headed by Daniel (Pilobolus) Ezralow; singer Joe Cocker; jazzman Charlie Haden and his Quartet West; early music virtuoso Jordi Savall who plays the viola da gamba, and the UK's funnyman Sean Foley, Hamish McCall and

their Right Size Theater Company.

The Israeli end of the festival is held up by *Jerusalem Isn't Tel Aviv* by Yossi Banai, which was commissioned by the festival; appearances by singers Shalom Hanoch, Nurit Galron and Miki Gavrielov, and *Free Form Murder*, a theatrical romp from Shirli Dese, Ami Dagan, and Dorit Parnes.

There will be some 90 performances from 65 different artists and companies - some 1,000 participants in all. As usual, festival venues are spread over the capital with additional performances in Haifa and the Roman Theater in Caesarea. Tickets go on sale April 9.

## MKs to visit Cairo as guests of Egyptian parliament

### LIAT COLLINS

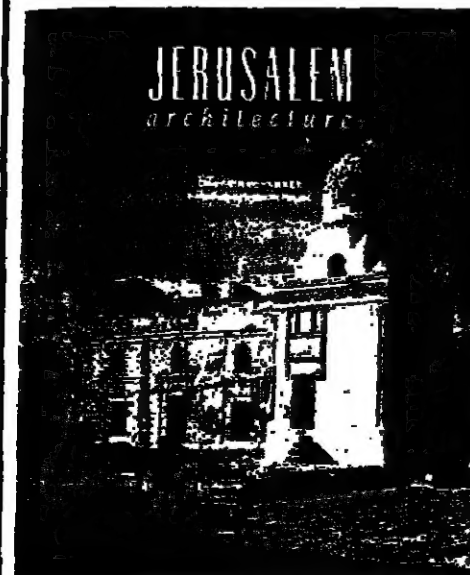
Orr and Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassioumy, will help improve relations between the two countries.

The delegation comprises Orr (Labor); Ze'ev Begin (Likud); Yael

Dayan (Labor); Nissim Zivili (Labor); Zevulun Hammer (NRP), and Moshe Peled (Tsomet).

Arye Deri, the only Shas member on the committee, is not able to go and the Meretz MKs are staying home for a party conference.

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## Journalist Moshe Brilliant dies at 79

Jerusalem Post Staff

MOSHE Brilliant, a long-time journalist in Israel and the *Jerusalem Post's* first Knesset correspondent, died Friday at Sheba Hospital from complications following a series of illnesses. He was 79.

Brilliant was also the secondary correspondent for the *New York Times* for 38 years, until he retired in 1988, as well as a correspondent for the *London Times*.

Born in West Hoboken, NJ on April 26, 1915, and raised in Brook-

lyn, Brilliant came to Palestine in 1933 and got a job as a messenger for the *Palestine Post*. He later became a reporter when he impressed the Tel Aviv bureau chief, Ted Lurie, and eventually rose to become Tel Aviv bureau chief himself.

After the founding of the state and the first Knesset elections in 1949, "Moish," as he was known to everyone, was named head of the Knesset bureau. He was also one of the founders in 1958 of the Foreign Press Association in Israel.

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